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Benavente endorsed as new CPA executive director. PAGE 2
PSS exhausts utility budget; 'all others' account nearly empty. PAGE 5

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Are you satisfied with the settlement agreement reached in Betty Johnson's class suit versus the NMI Retirement Fund?
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after a powerful typhoon hits the Philippines. ➤ PAGE 15

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Deaths of wandering autistic children are prompting actions. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Lea Michele makes her first public appearance following the death of Cory Monteith. ➤ PAGE 19

Gray area in procurement rules seeks clear answers

» Can off-island contractors do business in the CNMI without a CNMI business license?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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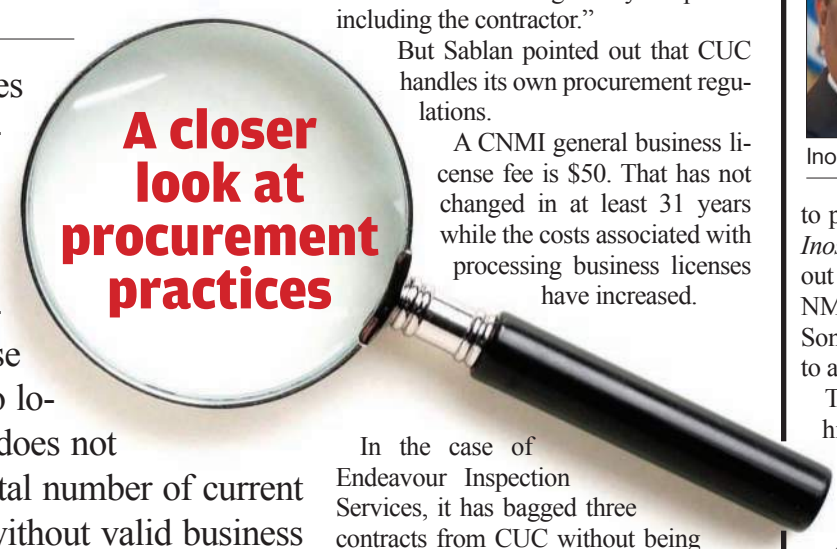
REPORTER

Endeavour Inspection Services LLC has bagged three contracts from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. totaling over $300,000 since 2011 but the Guam-based firm has never been required to obtain a CNMI business license and therefore has not been subjected to local taxation. Because the government does not have readily available data as to the total number of current and past off-island based contractors without valid business licenses, government officials and businesses say the CNMI government may have been losing out on much needed taxes for years and decades.



Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan said yesterday that "a business license is required only after a contract is executed—signed by all parties including the contractor."

But Sablan pointed out that CUC handles its own procurement regulations.

A CNMI general business license fee is $50. That has not changed in at least 31 years while the costs associated with processing business licenses have increased.

In the case of Endeavour Inspection Services, it has bagged three contracts from CUC without being required to obtain a business license.

CUC is a government entity tasked with the operation and maintenance of

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Inos to hold town hall meeting today on Fund settlement agreement

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Inos

In what is believed to be a rare move by any CNMI chief executive, Gov. Eloy S. Inos will hold a town hall meeting today to personally discuss the *Johnson v. Inos* settlement agreement and reach out to as many stakeholders of the NMI Retirement Fund as possible. Some lawmakers have also vowed to attend the town hall meeting.

The governor initially disclosed his town hall meeting plan during a meeting with lawmakers and then at a news briefing on Wednesday last week, a day after the court tentatively approved the settlement deal.

House Special Committee on Re-

See INOS on Page 4

MONETH G. DEPOSA

NMI Retirement Fund members are seen lining up yesterday noon at a window of the Retirement Fund on Capital Hill following the agency's announcement that it is starting to disburse refund checks to members who elected to terminate their membership and have filed necessary waivers last week. As of 1pm yesterday, over 900 individuals have issued out their refunds either through checks or direct deposit.

Fund starts disbursing refunds

» Over 900 members get 23 pct. of contributions on first day

» More than 40 on Tinian, about 25 on Rota get their refund checks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Pangelinan

Hundreds of members of the NMI Retirement Fund trooped to Capital Hill yesterday morning as soon as they found out that their refund checks are ready for pick up.

Although the information was circulated on the agency's website at the last minute, acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan disclosed that over 900 members

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Local

Benavente endorsed as new CPA executive director

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Former lieutenant governor Diego T. Benavente was formally endorsed yesterday to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board to become the agency's next executive director. However, the board deferred accepting the personnel committee's report and voting on its recommendation.

The CPA board met yesterday—the second from last week's—to specifically hear the personnel committee report and its recommendation for the executive director post.

» CPA board faces 'challenge' in getting majority vote for Diego

The race is just between Benavente and John Oliver Gonzales, who were each independently evaluated by the three committee members: chair Fermin Sakisat, Frances Mafnas, and Barrie Toves.

Toves' absence in last week's meeting resulted in the meeting being rescheduled to yesterday, with the intention of having a final report and recommendation to the board.

The board, again, put off the matter yesterday and deferred taking any action until all members are present. Toves was once again unavailable in yesterday's meeting. Another meeting is tentatively set on Friday.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi told *Saipan Tribune* that yesterday's agenda was deferred to give all board members the chance to vote on the selection of a new executive director.

CPA has two vacancies on the board. Lifoifoi is joined on the board by Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez, Fermin Sakisat, Frances Mafnas, and Barrie Toves.

Benigno Sablan, who has been re-appointed to the board, is not expected to rejoin the group anytime soon after the Senate clerk confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the schedules for Sablan's public hearing and confirmation have yet to be finalized.

The governor also just made last week the appointment of the board's Tinian member.

Under board policy, the selection of executive director should get a majority vote of four members in order to adopt a decision. According to Sakisat, a vote to "abstain" also means a "no" vote under CPA board policy.

To further illustrate this, Lifoifoi said that a "3-2" vote on the selection of an executive director remains "defeated" as the majority vote requires four members.

Benavente

Endorsement

During yesterday's meeting, Sakisat initially made a motion to submit his committee's recommendation to select Benavente to become the agency's next chief. He mentioned that this recommendation was reached after "two of three committee members" approved Benavente's selection over his opponent. Toves, it was learned, did not vote for Benavente.

Just minutes after this motion was made, Lifoifoi called for a 10-minute break to give Villagomez a chance to "clarify" something with Toves, who was contacted via phone yesterday. The two spoke privately during the short break. Villagomez is not a member of the committee.

When the meeting resumed, the decision to defer the matter was adopted.

When asked if he will support Benavente's selection, Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*: "I don't know yet."

Villagomez appeared dissatisfied with the two-page report of the personnel committee, saying he needs to see more documents that will justify the recommendation.

"I need to see a full committee report and in the presence of the committee, I will then make a decision whether I will support or not their recommendation," he told *Saipan Tribune.* Villagomez earlier questioned the board's decision to lower the qualification and standards for the executive director position, citing potential legal issues that may arise.

Saipan Tribune learned that Toves was expected to support the committee's recommendation, but this changed yesterday for undisclosed reasons. It was learned that the original committee report showed a unanimous stance on the recommendation.

This was amended on the floor yesterday, to reflect that "the committee took into ac-

See BENAVENTE on Page 4

Suspect in 1996 murder of cashier back on island

Edwin Pangelinan Blas, the suspect in the killing of a store cashier in 1996, is back on Saipan after serving 180 months in federal prison for his role in the hostage taking of inmates at a prison facility in Susupe in 1999.

Yesterday, the U.S. Probation Office asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to revoke Blas' supervised release for allegedly failing to comply with a mandatory condition that he report to the Probation Office within 72 hours after being released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

» U.S. Probation Office seeks revocation of suspect's supervised release

District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona summoned Blas yesterday to appear in court to explain why his supervised release should not be revoked.

Then-District Court chief judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Blas in August 1999 to 180 months in prison for hostage taking and 120 months for felon in possession of ammunition. Munson ordered Blas to serve the sentence concurrently, meaning that his actual jail time was 180 months.

Blas' five-year supervised release began on July 19, 2013.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola stated in his petition that, while in custody of the Bureau of Prisons on March 26, 2013, Blas signed a supervised release plan acknowledging his conditions of supervised release, including the condition that he report to the U.S. Probation Office within 72 hours from release from imprisonment.

Blas also allegedly signed on May 28, 2013, a notice of release and arrival, advising of his obligation to report for supervision wherein it directed him to report for supervision within 72 hours.

Arriola said that Blas was released from prison on July 19, 2013, and arrived on Saipan on July 20, 2013.

Arriola said that Blas failed to report within 72 hours as instructed and made no attempt to contact the U.S. Probation Office to initiate his supervision.

Arriola said he was able to contact Blas on July 25, 2013, and asked him why he failed to report to the office.

Blas reportedly stated that he did not know that he was supposed to and that he was never instructed to do so.

Police tagged Blas as the suspect in the killing of Virginia Dejito Coria in the evening of Oct. 15, 1996. As of yesterday, the Office of the Attorney General has yet to file charges against him.

Coria, a Filipino national, was 42 years old when she was found dead in her small bedroom at the back of the former K-Store, where she was employed as a cashier. Her throat was reportedly slashed.

Before the hostage taking in 1999, the late Chief Justice Miguel Demapan sentenced Blas to several years in prison for trying to rape a Chinese woman. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Northern Islands can be CNMI's breadbasket'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Instead of letting the U.S. military use the Northern Islands for target shooting, its rich soil can be put to better use by turning the islands into a breadbasket for the Commonwealth, according to the islands' former residents.

Pedro Pangelinan Castro, who lived on Pagan for 30 years, said the island had a thriving agricultural settlement before the eruption of its volcano in the '80s to the '90s.

"In the old days the island had a population of 3,000, including Okinawans, Japanese, and locals. Pagan has a lot of resources. It has the best soil and you can plant anything," he said at the start of a history lecture series organized by the 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on July 31.

Catsro said his parents had a farm and they grew a number of crops like pineapples that sometimes weighed up to 25 to 30 lbs. His family also raised chicken that weighed up to 34 lbs.

"We had a lot of pigs, cows, goats. Almost everything we had on Saipan, we had it there except deer."

Retired teacher Tomasa Taman Ada, who born and raised in Agrigan, said the Northern Islands are good for agriculture. "We have a lot of pineapples and bananas. You name it, we had it."

Councilman Diego Kaipat, for his part, said that copra was big business on Pagan back in the day, with buyers arriving by boat every few months. "People earned a living by making copra. That's how they get their money to buy their needs."

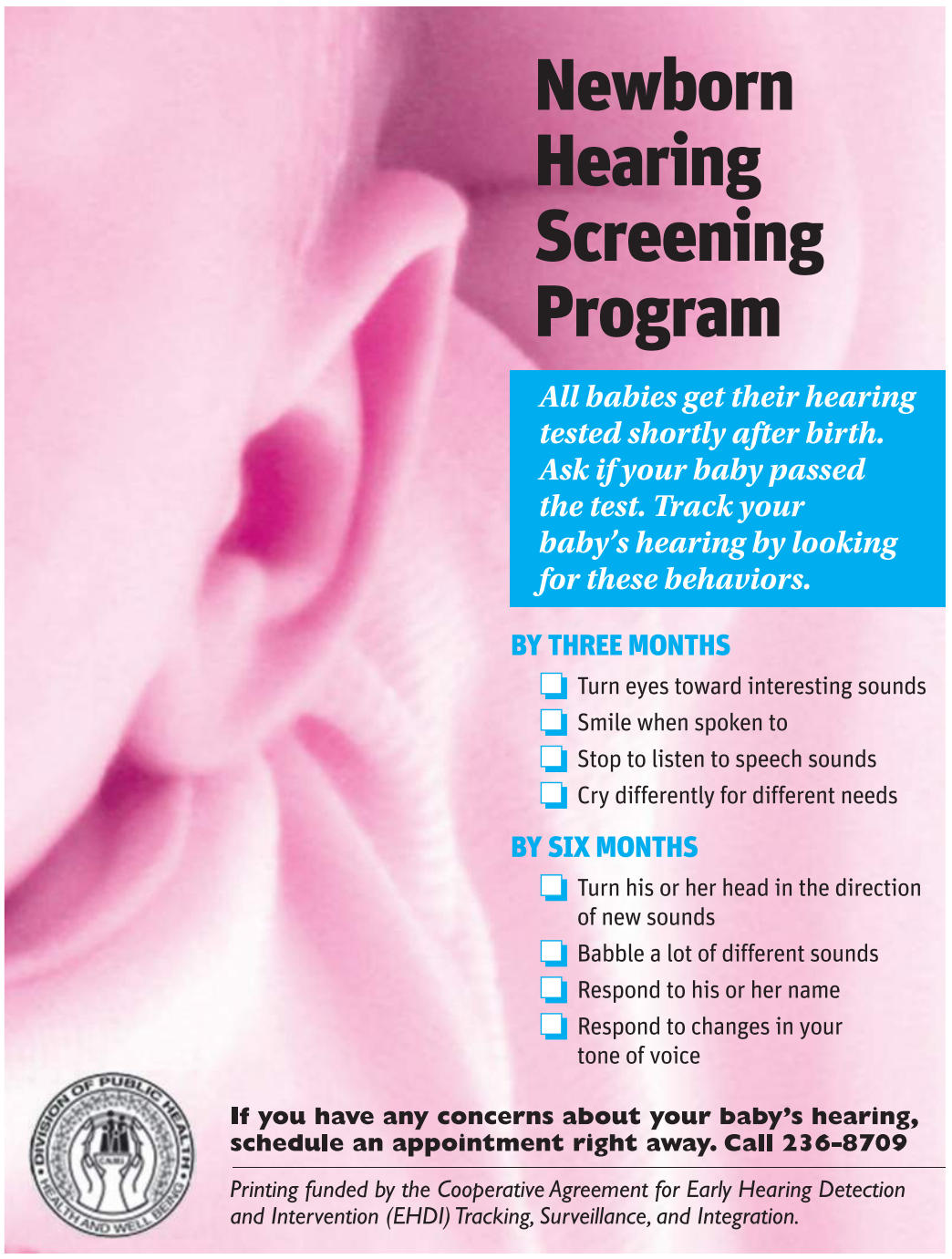
The lecture, called "Northern Islands Frontier: A Moment in Time," is being organized by the Municipal Council and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, with help from the NMI Humanities Council, Historic Preservation Office, and the NMI Museum.

The lecture series will be followed by the "Marianas Trench Marine Monument" set for tomorrow, Aug. 14, from 5pm to 6pm also at the JKPL.

Tomorrow's lecture will be a post-mortem reflection of the proclamation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument by President Bush in 2009 and whether or not the purpose, mission, and goals of the monument have been met and to what extent they have been achieved and what remains to be achieved.

The presentation speakers will also be asked to reflect on how the establishment of the monument plays out in the proposed militarization of Pagan and the expanded air space of Farallon de Mendinilla from three nautical miles to 12 nautical mile.

The speakers will be *Our Northern Islands, 2010* author Dennis Chan, Ike Cabrera, Benigno Sablan, and Marianas Conservation's John Gourley.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Tinian mayor optimistic that US Air Force will reconsider

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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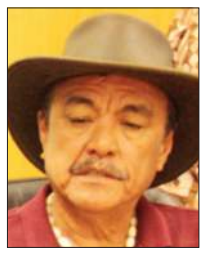
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz is optimistic that the U.S. Air Force will reconsider its decision to place a divert airfield on Saipan and build it on Tinian instead, for reasons outlined in Gov. Eloy S. Inos' letter to acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning.

Dela Cruz said if a soon-to-be-released final environmental impact statement still names Saipan as the preferred site over Tinian, he would like to propose to the governor that they personally seek help from the U.S. Senate and House Armed Services Committee for the CNMI's concerns to be heard.

"I'm very happy that the governor made the bold move to ask the Air Force to reconsider its decision. I am hoping the Air Force will consider the CNMI's request and change its position," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.


Dela Cruz

The Tinian mayor collaborated with the governor in the conceptualization of the Aug. 9 letter to Air Force's Fanning.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reiterated yesterday that Commonwealth officials are in agreement that a divert airfield should be put on Tinian, not Saipan.

"I have also directly expressed my opinion to the Air Force, and I had a meeting with a brigadier general about this. Commonwealth officials, myself included, expressed several times that it should be on Tinian," he said.

Dela Cruz also said it is perplexing why, despite CNMI officials' longstanding request to place the divert airfield on Tinian, the military still insists on Saipan.

"It is beyond me. If they do come up with the final EIS saying it will be on Saipan, then the CNMI government will continue to oppose that. Like I mentioned, I would suggest to the governor that we go to Washington, D.C. and seek help from the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committee," the mayor said.

Dela Cruz said he will be attending a Navy change-of-command ceremony in Guam on Wednesday and he will once again bring up the matter with key officials there.

The governor, in a two-page letter to Fanning, said the CNMI's longstanding concerns appeared to have been "improperly discounted and disregarded."

All the four mayors, the Legislature and this and the previous governors have asked that the divert airfield be placed on Tinian, where two-thirds of Tinian lands are already leased to the U.S. Department of Defense.

The governor also said the Air Force's request for 33 acres of land on Saipan for the next 50 years "is quite an undesirable conclusion as it would impede future commercial development in the area."

Inos said in his letter that cost consideration as a factor in placing the divert airfield on Saipan instead of Tinian is "unsubstantiated" and "perhaps an indefensible legal position." He added that the adverse environmental impacts and cultural and social costs of building the alternative airfield on Saipan "greatly outweigh" the increased economic costs associated with building it on Tinian.

The divert airfield plan seeks to find an alternative airfield in the Marianas for the U.S. Air Force in the event that access to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is limited or denied.

Tydingco-Gatewood sets criteria for selection of settlement fund trustee

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood set yesterday the schedule for the selection of a trustee who will run the settlement fund that will be created under the Betty Johnson class action settlement agreement.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that nominations for the settlement trustee are due Sept. 10, 2013. Objections or comments about the nominees are due Sept. 16, 2013.

She will then name the settlement trustee on or before Sept. 25, 2013.

Under the settlement agreement, the CNMI Retirement Fund's trustee *ad litem*, Joseph Razzano, Johnson's counsel, and the CNMI government are to nominate candidates for the position of settlement trustee.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that all settlement trustee nominees should have adequate credentials, available to interview with the court, and ready to accept immediately an appointment if nominated.

"To ensure these criteria are satisfied, a copy of each proposed settlement trustee's curriculum vitae shall be provided with the nomination, along with each nominee's contact information and a declaration that he or she will accept an appointment immediately," the judge noted.

Under the settlement agreement, Fund assets will be transferred to the settlement fund. The settlement fund will receive the annual contributions and other payments by the CNMI government.

Last week, Tydingco-Gatewood tentatively approved the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the Fund and the CNMI government.

The hearing on the final approval of the settlement deal will be on Sept. 30, 2013.

Trial begins for man who allegedly sexually abused girl with disability

The CNMI government called two witnesses yesterday at the start of the jury trial of Ray Anthony Ayuyu, a 42-year-old man accused of sexually abusing a girl with some developmental disabilities.

The trial will continue today, Tuesday, at 8:30am, in the Superior Court, with the government expected to call the 14-year-old alleged victim herself to the witness stand.

After some questions from assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll and defense attorney Colin Thompson, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho determined that the girl could testify despite her developmental disabilities, as she understands the difference between telling the truth and lying.

Camacho instructed the Office of the Attorney General's victim witness advocate Dixie Inos to sit next to the girl on the witness stand when she testifies.

The judge will also allow the girl to hold a green frog doll to provide her some comfort.

Additional court marshals will also be assigned in the courtroom to provide a sense of safety and security during the girl's testimony.

Camacho instructed Driscoll and her co-counsel, assistant attorney general Margo Brown, and defense counsel Thompson, that frequent breaks will be allowed to accommodate the girl's developmental disability.

Yesterday, the prosecution called two witnesses: the girl's cousin and police officer Nick C. Leon Guerrero Jr.

The cousin was the first one to call the police. Officer Leon Guerrero is a juvenile case investigator assigned to the case.

Leon Guerrero said a patrol officer responded to a residence in Kagman on Nov. 29, 2012, to investigate a complaint of sexual abuse of a minor.

The girl claimed that Ayuyu touched her privates in September 2012. She alleged that the defendant sexually abused her on at least two occasions while she was showering.

Ayuyu is facing charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and disturbing the peace. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FUND

From Page 1

were issued their refunds either through checks or direct deposits yesterday.

She said that yesterday was just the start of the disbursement of refunds to members who elected to terminate their membership in the program and who have filed the necessary waivers since last week.

As of 1pm yesterday, about 400 refunds checks were picked up while about 500 others received their refunds through direct deposit, Pangelinan said. All these 900 were the ones who filed their waivers last week and were processed by the Fund.

Of the refunds processed on the first day, the majority were for Saipan members while some were issued to Tinian and Rota members simultaneously, Pangelinan said, adding that the Fund sent personnel to bring the checks to over 40 on Tinian and about 25 on Rota.

She stressed out that those who received the first batch of refunds were those who have already filed their waivers on Aug. 6-9. The filing of waivers continues and disbursement will last until all members get their money.

According to Pangelinan, what the Fund distributed yesterday is just 23 percent of the entire contribution of members and will be sourced from the court-approved initial disbursement of $10 million. The remainder of the members' contributions will be issued out after the global settlement is approved, depending on the final court order.

There were over 1,700 members who initially filed for refund applications last year pursuant to Public Law 18-2. Disbursement, however, was later suspended by the court. Early this month, the Fund gave members nine more days to make their final decision whether they want to terminate their membership with the agency or not.

After this nine-day deadline, the Fund received a total of about 1,600 applications, Pangelinan said.

"Taking into account the void applications, we estimated about 1,600 [refund applications] or a little bit more than that. And the checks we issued starting today is about 23 percent [of the member's contribution] which is the pro rate share of everyone who submitted applications based on $10 million that were disbursed," she explained.

Many members interviewed by Saipan Tribune expressed relief upon receiving their checks yesterday.

Frank Tudela, who has been contributing into the pension agency for more than 20 years, said he waited for over 10 months to get back his money. He plans to use the first check he received yesterday to pay his "consolidated bills" and for the bare essentials for his family. Tudela said that members remain fortunate that something was left for them in the nearly depleted pension fund.

"Like my friends said…worst case scenario, I guess we should be happy that we have our money now. We're waiting for this for the longest time," he said.

A hospital employee who has been contributing to the Fund for 15 years was also elated upon getting a portion of her contributions. She plans to deposit the refund for now and wait for the remainder so she could make better plans for her family's future.

Another member who has been contributing into the Fund for 14 years disclosed that she will put everything she will get from the Fund in a more sound investment for her family. This sentiment was echoed by other workers who were seen waiting in line yesterday at the Fund.

INOS

From Page 1

tirement Fund chair Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), one of the lawmakers attending, said one of the questions he would like to pose is: "How long will retirees endure the 25 percent deferment or temporary cut in pension?"

"Will it be five years? Eight years? Or whether it will ever come to a point wherein the government will have enough money to restore 100 percent?" Taitano told *Saipan Tribune.*

The town hall meeting will be held today, beginning at 5:30pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"The general public is invited to listen to Gov. Inos explain the benefits of the settlement agreement," press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday in a statement.

Demapan said there will also be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the agreement.

"In an effort to reach various sectors of the community, the Office of the Governor will be coordinating future meetings in various locations. Further information as to future meeting schedules and locations will be announced in the coming days," he said.

Demapan, in response to *Saipan Tribune* questions, said the governor expects lawmakers to also attend today's town hall meeting.

Besides the governor, assistant attorneys general Teresita Sablan and Reena Patel and Retirement Fund officials are also expected to be at the town hall meeting.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said it is important that the Legislature and the administration are on the same page on the settlement deal, although he is still concerned about the negative effects of a 25-percent cut in pension among retirees who get only $6,000 or a little more annually.

"Those getting the minimum pension amount do not have a choice. If they opt out of the settlement and the settlement goes through, they will be left in the dark, they could be left without a pension at all because the Fund's assets will be transferred to the settlement account," Sablan said in a phone interview.

Sablan is among those lawmakers who vowed to be at the town hall meeting with the governor.

"I commend the governor for holding this town hall meeting so he can directly discuss the settlement agreement with retirees and others, and also to be able to answer questions from the audience," the lawmaker added.

It is rare for any CNMI governor to directly discuss matters with the general public or directly answer questions from them.

Inos, who has only been governor for barely six months, has actively participated in the settlement talks.

BENAVENTE

From Page 2

count the position description, the applicants' materials submitted to CPA, each applicant's interview, and any other relevant and material factors, in its recommendation. It hereby recommends, with the exception of member Barrie Toves, for a vote of two out of three members, Diego T. Benavente to the CPA board of directors for the position of CPA executive director."

With the agenda now deferred to Friday's meeting, Sakisat said that everything about the matter is now not final.

"Because the subject was deferred to another meeting and until such time another meeting go to order, that's the time I can officially comment [on this personnel issue]," he told *Saipan Tribune,* adding that as much as he wants to fill the public with general information on the subject, he can't do so as this deals with personnel issues.

GRAY AREA

From Page 1

the islands' power, water and wastewater facilities.

Pam Halstead of the CNMI Business License Office in Dandan confirmed that no business under that name has applied for or obtained a business license since at least 2011.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said CUC believes it "may do business with entities that are not required to have business licenses."

However, in order to be sure of its position, CUC submitted a request for a declaratory ruling from the Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation on this very question in May 2013.

Fletcher, as petitioner, requests a declaratory ruling from Revenue and Taxation that off-island unlicensed vendors that sell materials to residents of the CNMI are not subject to the CNMI's business gross revenue tax.

The petitioner also requests further declaratory rulings on this issue when the sale involves only services and when the sale involves both services and materials.

"Because the outcome of this petition impacts several impending contracts, petitioner requests a declaratory ruling within 30 days of the date of this submission," Fletcher said in his May 20, 2013, request. He has yet to hear from Revenue and Taxation.

Several pending government contracts could be impacted by the outcome of this request for declaratory ruling from Revenue and Taxation.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson separately said yesterday she has referred media questions on the matter to an attorney and would need more time to respond.

Central questions

CUC's Fletcher posed three questions to Revenue and Taxation for declaratory ruling.

First, whether an off-island vendor who sells only materials to an entity (or person) in the Commonwealth can lawfully be assessed a business gross revenue tax on the sale of such materials.

Second, whether an off-island vendor who sells only services to an entity (or person) in the Commonwealth can lawfully be assessed a business gross revenue tax on the sale of such services.

Third, whether an off-island vendor who sells both materials and services to an entity (or person) in the Commonwealth can be lawfully assessed a business gross revenue tax on the sale of such materials and services.

In response to *Saipan Tribune* questions, Fletcher said that CUC is in the business of providing reliable power, water, and wastewater services for the CNMI.

He said CUC does not have the means to ensure business licensing, tax collection, or compliance with all CNMI laws for the hundreds of contractors and vendors CUC does business with each year.

"This is the job of the Division of Taxation and Revenue, and this is why we submitted our petition for a ruling concerning the application of CNMI business license laws and regulations. As our request shows, CUC continues to be committed to staying in compliance with CNMI law," he said.

'Unlawful'

Fletcher as the petitioner asserts that assessment of CNMI business gross revenue tax on off-island unlicensed vendors is "unlawful."

The CNMI Code states in part, "There is imposed on every person a [monthly] tax on the person's gross revenue." This is based on 4 CMC 1301 as amended by Public Law 17-30 signed in 2011.

"Gross revenue" is defined as the "gross receipts of a business derived from trade, business, commerce, or sales or similar income derived from a 'person' in the Commonwealth and received by a 'resident' in the course of carrying on a 'business.'"

Fletcher said that because any income from an off-island unlicensed vendor's sale to petitioner [CUC] was not derived from a regular and continuous business activity transaction conducted by a "person in the Commonwealth," the "off-island" unlicensed vendor cannot be assessed the CNMI's business gross revenue tax.

He said assessment of CNMI's business gross revenue tax on an off-island vendor violates the U.S. Constitution, and cited *McGoldrick v. Berwind-White Coal Mining Co.*, on holding state taxation that tends to place interstate commerce at a disadvantage as compared to intrastate commerce, its unconstitutional regulatory effect on commerce between states, and noting the same for commerce with foreign nations.

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, in a separate interview, said he does not know of any current DPW contractor, whether from on island or off-island, that does not have a CNMI business license.

"I believe all of our contractors have a business license. That's the only way they will be required to pay taxes in the CNMI," he said.

'Causing confusion'

CUC's chief legal counsel, James S. Sirok, said in a May 20 letter to acting director of Revenue and Taxation Maria White that CUC feels that when an off-island vendor intermittently contracts to sell supplies to CUC, that vendor is not required under CNMI law to acquire a business license because the intermittent sales activity does not fall within the ambit of the term "regular and continuous activity."

However, he said, should the Department of Finance determine that this certain class of off-island vendors engages in "business" in the CNMI, then such determination would require this class of off-island vendors to possess a CNMI business license prior to the award of a CUC contract for the purchase of products or services.

"For those vendor activities that are not regular and continuous, CUC feels that a BGR tax should not be imposed on the proceeds derived from such activities. However, whether or not the CNMI Department of Finance is of the same conclusion is unclear," Sirok told White.

The fact that CUC has not been able to provide procurement registrants and proposers a clear answer to this question has caused confusion and delay in CUC's procurement proposal and award process, Sirok added.

"It has also caused confusion on vendor invoices and payments made by CUC for those invoices," he said.

Sirok's letter accompanied Fletcher's request for a declaratory ruling on the issue.

Endeavour contracts

Based on data obtained through an Open Government Act request, CUC awarded a $17,291.67 contract to Endeavour in 2011 to inspect and test the integrity of an aboveground storage tank and pipeline on Rota.

A few months later, CUC again awarded a $140,700 contract to Endeavour Inspection Services as construction manager for the replacement of an 8-inch petroleum pipeline for CUC's power plants 1 and 2.

A change order on the contract changed the contract amount from $140,700 to $103,472.

In late 2012, CUC awarded a third contract to Endeavour Services. The contract says the minimum chargeable project cost is $245,000.

This contract, however, has not been completed.

Fletcher, in response to *Saipan Tribune* questions about its contract with Endeavour Services, said, "CUC does its best to ensure that contractors follow all requirements of CNMI law."

"To do this, we specify particular responsibilities of our contractors in our contracts, including taxes, labor, immigration, and other local laws, rules, and regulations. We believe, however, that CUC may do business with entities that are not required to have business licenses," Fletcher said.

The Office of the Public Auditor is also looking into CUC's contracts with Endeavour Inspection Services, *Saipan Tribune* sources said.

'Sour graping'

Mark Matthys, chief operating officer of Endeavour Inspection Services, said Endeavour has been reviewing the matter as well.

Matthys said that Endeavour Inspection Services is "considering" applying for a CNMI business license, although it believes it is not required to do so.

In a phone interview, Matthys said Endeavour Services has not been subjected to this criticism in the past and believes that the issue was fueled by another contractor in the CNMI.

"I see this as sour graping by another contractor in the CNMI. But that is being considered now—applying for a business license," he added.

He believes there are a number of off-island contractors that also do not have a CNMI business license.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, separately said he is considering introducing a bill requiring all on-island and off-island companies that obtain a contract from any CNMI entity to apply for and obtain a business license here so they can pay their taxes.

But Deleon Guerrero said this needs consultation with relevant agencies such as Finance's Revenue and Taxation.

PSS exhausts utility budget; 'all others' account nearly empty

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With three more months until the end of the fiscal year, the Public School System has already exhausted its budget for utilities while the agency's "all others" account is nearly empty, according to acting PSS finance director George Palican.

In his report to the education board, Palican said the system has only $177,101 left in its "all others" account that will have to be divvied up among all public schools from July to Sept. 30, the end of fiscal year 2013.

For utilities, Palican bared that PSS is actually 142 percent over-the-budget after it exhausted all $2.3 million allocated for the power, water, and sewer bills of all 19 campuses on three islands.

According to Palican, what's left of the system's $31 million budget for fiscal year 2013 is the salaries and wages of personnel for the remaining three months. This amounts to $6.156 million.

The new school year officially starts on Sept. 3.

PSS records show that in the nine-month period from October 2012 through June 2013, CUC billed the system a total of $3.277 million, of which $2.047 has been paid, resulting in the unpaid balance of $1.230 million for fiscal year 2013 alone.

If this amount is added to PSS' "old accounts" with CUC, this will bring PSS' unpaid obligation to $5.286 million, representing unpaid bills from fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013, Palican said.

For the past two fiscal years, PSS' debt with CUC was at $4.056 million.

Despite the limited budget appropriated for PSS, Palican emphasized that the system consistently showed good faith in paying CUC monthly, even if not the full amount.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS' total billing of $3.2 million from October to June this year is composed of $1.4 million for power, $823,784 for water, $701,507 for sewer services, and $307,609 in late charges.

For its monthly usage, PSS incurred the highest billings in November, October, and May.

In October, CUC billing for PSS totaled $395,448. A slight increase was noted in November when the system incurred $419,759 for its utility consumption. In December last year, PSS was billed $413,216; January's billing totaled $294,733; while the February billing was at $359,286.

In March, PSS noticed a slight reduction in its usage, with the bill reaching $308,058, immediately followed by a surge in April, totaling $332,609. May's bill totaled $412,161, while June's reached $342,615.

Palican pointed out that the June billing excludes the late charges usually assessed by CUC.

PSS is counting on the passage of a rate relief bill pending at the Legislature to lower its utility bills in the years ahead. It is also appealing to CUC to waive late fees and charges for public schools.

'PSS faces legal issues if SCP is enforced'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System would face numerous legal issues if a proposed school choice program is enacted into law and implemented in the Commonwealth.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., bared this after reviewing a bill pending at the House of Representatives that proposes to create a school choice program for the islands.

Under the proposed House Bill 18-91, PSS would be allowed to send some of its students to attend classes in private schools instead of public schools by fall 2013. This is intended to help eradicate the perennial overcrowding in classrooms and address the lack of teachers in public schools. These students, despite attending classes in private schools, will still be considered PSS students. The program is also believed to lower the costs to PSS and the CNMI general fund.

According to lawmakers, at least 15 states in the U.S. mainland have established successful school choice programs that the CNMI can model its program after, while 30 more states have legislation underway.

According to Guerrero and Sablan, what the bill really does is attempt to address a budgetary issue with an educational policy. Despite the reasons given by the Legislature, education officials strongly oppose the idea, citing, among other reasons, the potential legal issues that may arise once the program is implemented.

Guerrero and Sablan said the bill contemplates that all students using "school choice" funds would technically still be PSS students, which means that PSS is technically still legally liable for those students.

In addition to legal liability, PSS must then ensure that BOE and PSS regulations must follow the students as well, including requirements for teacher certification, graduation requirements, student rights with respect to due process for discipline, and a host of other rights and responsibilities that are imposed on public school systems to protect public school children.

Under the planned program, the Board of Education will be mandated to allot $2.5 million—or 5 percent of its operating budget—to private schools, which will require a constitutional amendment. Another constitutional quagmire is that the BOE would need to have some amount of oversight over private schools.

Guerrero cited an example the potential violation of federal laws that may occur once the program is enacted into law. Currently, private schools need not comply with any provisions of the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act) requirements.

"So there is no assurance that a parent utilizing a voucher will secure a free appropriate education for their child with disability. In fact, private schools are not required even to offer some education benefit to their special needs students as public schools must do under the IDEA," he said.

Technical support

According to Guerrero and Sablan, PSS has historically provided financial and technical support to private schools in the CNMI. Title I funds are used to provide master teachers to private schools, and related services are provided to students who require special services. Private schools also participated in the PSS laptop program and were also provided textbooks and other resources.

"All of these programs are implemented with little or no accountability required from non-public schools. What the Legislature is contemplating with this bill would overextend the obligation of PSS," added the two education officials.

Overcrowding as one of the main reasons for the SCP proposal is not sufficient enough to impose the bill, Guerrero said.

"The solution for the overcrowding in some PSS classrooms is not to remove funding from PSS budget but rather to increase funding to PSS. This bill is not the solution to the budgetary issues that is currently facing PSS and the CNMI as a whole," according to him.

He pointed out that despite the overcrowding in public schools, none are in violation of any safety codes and students are engaged in learning and PSS continues to effectively deliver education services.

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From June 28 to August 22, 2103, fuel up $20 worth of Synergy gas (in a single transaction) at Mobil and get a chance to be one of 150 lucky winners of a Saipan World Resort Wave Jungle Water Park Package for 4 people. Package includes 4 adult day passes for use of all waterpark activities and facilities plus lunch at The Buffet World Restaurant.

Winners are drawn on July 30 and August 27, 2013. Keep an eye out at all participating Mobil stations and Saipan World Resort Wave Jungle Water Park on August 13 and September 10, 2013 to see if you've won!

Fleet Card members are not eligible for this promotion. You must be a Smiles member to participate in and qualify for the lucky draw. To enter the lucky draw, no purchase is necessary. See terms and conditions at participating Mobil stations or call our toll-free hotline for details.

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Chamber supports Grotto entrance fee but with reservation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce said it supports the enforcement of nominal fees for the preservation of the Grotto dive site in Marpi and other CNMI natural resource areas but with certain reservations, modification, and suggestions for House Bill 18-96. The bill proposes a $3 entrance fee to Grotto, an underwater limestone cavern plummeting 70 feet at its deepest point.

Alex Sablan, Chamber president, asked whether the proposed Grotto fee comes within a grouping of tourist sites in the Marpi area that could be subjected to visitor usage fee under the Marianas Visitors Authority's CNMI Tourism Plan.

Sablan asked whether there would be similar fees considered for Bird Island, Suicide Cliff, Banzai Cliff, the Last Command Post, Mount Tapochau, Forbidden Island and other historical and tourism related sites on Tinian and Rota.

"In other words, where does it stop?" Sablan asked in a two-page letter to House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Tony Benavente (Ind-Saipan) on Aug. 7.

Sablan said there are at least three bills now before House committees all calling for visitor usage fees. These are House bills 18-10, 18-25, and 18-96.

The Chamber president said there is a lack of coordination amongst those agencies proposing the concept of tourism-related fees for visiting CNMI historical and natural areas.

"The fact that there are three separate bills within the Legislature for usage fees is problematic primarily because different areas in the CNMI are overseen by different government agencies," Sablan said.

He also said that HB 18-96 prompts a call for organization, prioritization, and scheduling by all government agencies, with and including MVA, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Resources Management, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the administration to meet with the Legislature to formulate legislation that would reflect needs, costs, conservation measures and a scheduling of fees for the use of the CNMI's natural resources.

Sablan said the MVA's CNMI Tourism Master Plan should be adopted, and MVA and others should work with the Legislature in implementing a proposed schedule for visitor fee structuring within the Marpi area and other tourist sites in the CNMI.

He said the Chamber believes, for instance, that Hawaii and Palau are far more advanced when it comes to assessing visitor fees, enforcement of conservation measures, and actually protecting their natural resources through visitor usage fee schedules.

Jellyfish Lake in Palau and Hanauma Bay in Hawaii, although different classifications of protected areas, are very good examples of how well conceived concepts are carried out, Sablan said.

"One last important point is how those concepts of conservation and protecting CNMI natural resources are sold to tourists through the scheduling of the visitor usage fees. Both literally, and figuratively," Sablan told Benavente.

By "figuratively," studies show tourists are more willing to pay even higher fees if they believe those funds will be used for conservation purposes, as opposed to just collecting more tax and fee dollars for central government funding.

By "literally," the Chamber recognizes the fact that any visitor usage fees to conserve and protect areas is different than, say, if DFW starts a SCUBA permit program or if DFW starts charging a fee to enter a protected area.

Sablan said the Chamber board and its Environmental Committee members are available to meet with the Legislature and all the other stakeholders to discuss, formulate, and act on rebuilding the economy through protecting its best resource, "this paradise."

HB 18-96 is co-authored by Reps. Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan) and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan). The bill authorizes MVA, in consultation with DFW, to "charge a base entry fee of $3 to descend down for a cave viewing of Grotto."

The authors said many states charge fees to enter or visit sites, to help ensure a source of funding for maintenance and security, and they propose to do the same at the Grotto.

Revenues generated from the Grotto entry fee will be deposited into subaccounts that the Department of Finance will create: 50 percent to benefit MVA, and 50 percent to benefit DFW, which is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Municipal Council elated with increased police visibility in CK

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho and community leader Bill Lely are happy about the positive effects of increased police visibility in Chalan Kanoa.

Lely said that since Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero initiated police bike patrols in the village last week, he has seen a decline in nefarious nocturnal activities in Chalan Kanoa.

"I'm glad the police started patrols around Chalan Kanoa. It has really made a big change in deterring criminal activities that we usually have here. I've really seen the difference and expect crime to diminish now that we've got these patrols. What it does is it acts as a deterrent and prevents any criminal activity. The community is really happy that the police [are] doing this now. Everyone's elated and feel a lot safer."

Camacho lauded DPS for the launch of the police community watch but reminded Chalan Kanoa residents that they should work hand-in-hand with the police force to rid the area of criminality.

"It's good to have the police start patrolling but we still need the community. I retired from the police force and police cannot be all over at once so we need to empower the community because we're the stakeholders here. We need the community and I don't want the community to just sit back. The community needs to come out and help the police."

He said that DPS and Deleon Guerrero have yet to take him up on his offer for the Chalan Kanoa "koban" to use the Municipal Council's office space after 4:30pm when its work hours end.

Deleon Guerrero announced the launch of the police bike patrols during a meeting with Chalan Kanoa community leaders on Aug. 1. He said this comes after the success of the police community watch in the tourist district of Garapan.

He said they especially picked Chalan Kanoa and neighboring Susupe as their next pilot project because of the high rate of criminality in the two villages.

Lely, a longtime resident of Chalan Kanoa, said the village wasn't always associated with criminality and its bad reputation only began in the '80s.

"The problem is because Chalan Kanoa residents are keeping to themselves and not sharing and being neighborly and stuff. Crime actually came about in the 1980s. In the 1970s you can keep your door unlocked and your car door open and nothing would happen. Introduction of drugs and lack of jobs resulted in this rise of crime in our neighborhood," the Costa Tour resident manager said. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
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Tel: (670) 2347859 • Fax. (670) 2345749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 12-0077**
vs.	**NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**
RAYMOND H. SAKISAT, Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 31st day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of September, 2013 at 10 a.m.,** at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 243, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, containing an area of 906 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, the original of which was recorded 14 Mar 84 as Document No. 84-0751 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 2nd day of August, 2013.

/s / Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
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Case Number: 120244CV Kristy Diaz

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 12-0244**
vs.	
JOSE F. TUDELA and FRANCES C. TUDELA, Defendants.	

NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 16th day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of September, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 045 A 135, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 004, the original of which was recorded 26 APR 1990 as Document No. 90-1672 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sale with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
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DATED this 2nd day of August, 2013.

/s / Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-HSEM-134

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 27, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"COMMUNICATIONS TOWER INSPECTION, ASSESSMENT, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR **AUGUST 16, 2013, 9:00 A.M.** AT CNMI'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER LOCATED IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan has been postponed until further notice.

/s/MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
REGULAR Commission Meeting
Friday, August 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission
San Jose Village, Tinian, MP

AGENDA

- **I. Preliminary**
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
  - d. Adoption of Minutes
- **II. Public Comments**[i]
- **III. Reports**
  - a. Chair's Report
  - b. Executive Director's Report
- **IV. Unfinished Business**
- **V. New Business**
  - a. Gaming Act Section 58 Request
  - b. Gaming Act Section 83 Request
  - c. Approval of Casino Employee License Application form
  - d. TDHC Request to Terminate Daily Segregation
  - e. TDHC Employees Gambling at TDHC
  - f. Ratification of Comments to HB No. 18-45 and HB 18-51
  - g. Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget
  - h. TDHC Casino Employee Applications
- **VI. Executive Session**[ii]
- **VII. Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters**
- **VIII. Adjournment**

[i]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[ii]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time

Man, 22, allegedly impregnates 13-year-old girl

Police arrested on Saturday night on Navy Hill a 22-year-old man who allegedly impregnated the 13-year-old daughter of his former girlfriend.

BJ Santer Bisek was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree, and assault and battery.

The girl was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where a doctor found her to be 23 weeks pregnant.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $150,000 cash bail on Bisek.

Police detective Steven N. Dela Cruz stated in his report that the girl's mother contacted the Division of Youth Services and the Department of Public Safety on Thursday to report the sexual abuse.

Dela Cruz said the mother told a responding police officer that Bisek sexually abused her 13-year-old daughter, who is now pregnant.

The girl told a detective that she had sex with Bisek four or five times and that the first time was in January 2013 and the last time was in May 2013.

The girl said that Bisek knew of her age. She also disclosed that the defendant is her mother's former boyfriend.

The mother told police that she and Bisek had an on and off relationship beginning in April 2012.

Detective Dela Cruz said that Bisek admitted during his interview to having sex with the girl, not knowing she is a minor.

Bisek also admitted that he started dating the girl's mother in December 2012 and that they ended their relationship in June 2013.

Bisek said he was dating the girl before he dated the mother. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board to meet on Aug. 20

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Aug. 22

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Chamber welcomes 3 new members

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce welcomed three new members during its monthly meeting last Aug. 7 at the Kanoa Resort.

Chamber president Alex Sablan handed out Chamber membership packets to new members Siberia Restaurant, Botchee Games International, and Fig Tree Development.

Representing Siberia Restaurant was its operations manager, Kayoko "Kay" Irinaka, while present during last Wednesday's meeting for Fig Tree Development was Lucy Kilili Sablan, who works for Conner Inc.

Botchee Games International owner Gary Stout was not on hand to accept his company's membership packet.

Irinaka said that Siberia Restaurant, located on the second floor of ABC Store on Beach Road, Garapan, opened on June 14 and is the first Russian dining establishment on Saipan.

"Business is great. Russian tourists eat a lot. A lot of repeaters from Russian tourists and also a trickling of local guests are beginning to come in," she said.

Aside from Siberia Restaurant, Irinaka's company has also opened the Jazz & Café Bar and Gift Shop next door.

Sablan, meanwhile, said that Fig Tree Development is a consultation firm for energy, business management, healthcare, and water projects.

"We're looking at promoting renewable energy in the CNMI. Fig Tree Development has been in business for almost a year and we have offices on Saipan—in Papago—and one in Guam," she said.

Botchee Games International, for its part, is the exclusive distributor of all Botchee games in the CNMI.

Botchee games is a ball sport belonging to the boules sport family and is closely related to bowls and pétanque. It is said to have been developed into its present form in Italy and is played around Europe and also in overseas areas that have received Italian migrants, including Australia, North America, and South America.

Chamber executive director Richard Pierce earlier said that new members show there are still many investors who believe in Saipan and the CNMI.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private sector business organization in the CNMI. ***(Mark Rabago)***

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, second from left, and the rest of the officers of the organization pose with representatives of new member companies Fig Tree Development and Siberia Restaurant. Representing Siberia Restaurant is operations manager Kayoko "Kay" Irinaka, fourth from left, while present during last Wednesday's meeting for Fig Tree Development was Lucy Kilili Sablan, third from left.

DEQ raises concerns on coral bleaching

The Division of Environmental Quality and its Marine Monitoring Program would like to inform the general public that there have been documented and confirmed incidents of coral bleaching at some of the near shore reefs around Saipan.

Coral bleaching is a physiological response to a number of stressors including sea water temperature anomalies (hot and cold), irradiance (UV light exposure), desiccation, and pollution. Currently, 14 species are being affected and six of the species are moving into fatal levels of bleaching due to an increase in water temperature.

Corals are animals that live symbiotically with algae called zooxanthellae that provide them with much of their food and energy needs. When the ocean temperature becomes too warm for too long, corals release the zooxanthellae, leaving corals with a brilliant white color, a stark contrast to the typical bright colors of a healthy coral reef. The bleached coral can recover if ocean temperatures return to normal and the algae return, but without the zooxanthellae, the coral often starves to death. Bleached corals are in a fragile state and extra care should be taken when recreating near them. Fishers, divers and snorkelers in particular should pay close attention not to touch or kick the corals.

The best thing the community can do is keep an eye on our reef and practice environmentally-friendly land and marine practices such as carpooling, removing trash correctly, minimizing chemical and fertilizer use, not burning, and boating and fishing responsibly. The community is urged to report any similar events to the natural resource management agencies of the CNMI:

- CNMI Division of Environmental Quality – Marine Monitoring Program: 664-8524
- CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife: 664-6000
- NMI Coastal Resources Management Office: 664-8300
- NOAA Field Office: 234-0004

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School students line up to get on buses that will bring them to the Hollywood Theaters for an orientation.

Mount Carmel School records 32 pct. enrollment hike

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School kicked off the new school year with huge 32-percent bump in its enrollment numbers as of the opening of classes last week.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero disclosed that the school had a total of 344 enrollees last week, a large jump over last school year's 260 and reversing almost a decade of enrollment decline. He expects the number to push past 350 as more students continue to register.

Mount Carmel School opened its classes on Aug. 8.

The enrollment jump, Deleon Guerrero said, reflects the overall growing enthusiasm and energy for Saipan's only Catholic school.

Most of the enrollment increase was in the junior high and high school, where the school has introduced new programs to help students become more competitive in college admissions and the workforce.

Guerrero assured parents and students that the school would do everything it can to accommodate additional students but that class sizes will continue to be kept small in order to ensure a student-to-teacher ratio that is conducive to learning.

"We are in the process of hiring additional teachers to meet the growing demand," he said.

Deleon Guerrero attributes the enrollment increase to the hard work of the school's faculty, staff, parents, and students. "Everyone worked succeeded last school year in improving the quality of everything we do, from academics to extra-curricular activities. This enrollment increase validates all that hard work and all our accomplishments."

Before the first day of school, school faculty and administrators met for professional development sessions that continued last year's focus on improving instructional by introducing "Classroom Instruction that Works" by ASCD and McREL as the guiding textbook.

"We hope to continue growing professionally so that our students get the best instruction from their teachers," said Bobby Baldazo, vice principal for curriculum and instruction.

The 2013 Mount Carmel School Teacher of the Year, Carmen Agulto, appreciated the use of the CITW model, especially its emphasis on the importance of teacher-student relationships.

"A positive, open, and honest relationship between the teacher and students is the key to success in classroom learning," Agulto said.

Looking back on the successes of the past year, Deleon Guerrero used a medical metaphor to describe where the school has been and where it's going. "Like a heart attack patient, we went from almost dying to stabilized care and life-saving surgery, and are now on our way to healthy living."

Deleon Guerrero noted that healthy living will require that the school develops sustainable finances, revisits the faculty salary levels, and raise the overall standards for the school. While the school's adoption last year of the recent National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools is an important step toward raising the standards at Mount Carmel School, Deleon Guerrero challenged the school to reach for one of the highest honors available to any school, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award.

The Blue Ribbon Award is given to schools whose students score in the top 15 percent of the nation in math and reading as determined by nationally-normed standardized tests like the SAT-10. Noting that the school is already in the top 40 percent, Deleon Guerrero said the school is only 25 percentile points away from reaching the Blue Ribbon threshold.

"If we set forth a five-year plan, we need only raise our standardized test scores by 5 percentile points each year. That may seem unattainable, but as W. Clement Stone said, aim for the moon, because even if you miss, you may hit a star," he said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 13, 2005

'Ripe for lawsuits'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. faces potential lawsuits if it fails to address health and safety concerns at its main power plant in Lower Base, according to former CUC consultant Ramon "Kumoi" S. Guerrero. For instance, Guerrero said that masks are not given to all power plant staff and vendors while removal of the asbestos roof is ongoing. "Why are masks not being issued or made available to all power plant staff and other vendors working on site? The future liability issue to CUC is a lawyer's dream," he said in his July 25 final report to CUC. Basic needs of personnel, such as a grease removing hand soap is not available, he added.

Volcanic activity felt on Pagan

Two monitoring agencies have detected volcanic activity on Pagan, even as the earthquake swarm being recorded on Sarigan has topped 460 since Tuesday. The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Geological Survey disclosed those developments, as Anatahan's volcano continues to erupt. "The portable seismograph indicated that there are activities going on," said EMO geophysical instrument specialist Ramon Chong. The problem, though, is that no seismic equipment is currently stationed on Pagan to constantly monitor seismic activities on the inhabited island, according to Chong. "Since there's no monitoring such as seismograph, it's hard to tell if there's a need to evacuate the people," Chong said. Only Sarigan and Anatahan have seismic stations.

August 13, 2006

Islandwide blackout hits Saipan

A big flame tree that fell on power lines in Sadog Tasi triggered an islandwide power outage on Saipan, which lasted for several hours beginning at 1pm yesterday. As of press time last night, CUC power had not been restored yet. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said it is still investigating the matter. CUC operations supervisor Patrick Deleon Guerrero, who was in Guam yesterday, said that reports reaching him showed that the tree fall triggered the power outage. "That's what started it. That's my understanding," he said.

'A successful rescue effort'

Local authorities described last Friday's emergency response to the early morning plane crash as "very good" and successful, citing the no-casualty incident and that all seven passengers were safely taken to the hospital in time. "Everybody-the port and police responders, hospital personnel-did a really good job. Everybody cooperated," said Ports Authority Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting director Stanley Torres Jr. He said their inter-agency emergency trainings paid off. "I wish we don't have to do this for real, but the reason we train is to make sure that we do the right thing when there's an emergency like what we had last Friday," said Torres.

August 13, 2007

'Grandfathered' alien workers can't bring in family members

The bill that seeks to federalize CNMI immigration does not allow for those who meet the criteria for non-immigrant status to bring in other family members not currently residing in the CNMI, according to CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio. Tenorio said the numbers of those who are qualified for non-immigrant status will not increase over what they are today unless the CNMI government allows them under local laws between now and the beginning of the transition period to bring in additional family members.

Cohen: 5-year provision not necessary

Compelling long-term foreign workers to stay in the Northern Marianas for another five years once they get their nonimmigrant visa may not be necessary. After all, both S. 1634 and H.R. 3079, which seek to federalize immigration in the CNMI, address the issue of workers' exodus, according to Department of Interior's deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs David B. Cohen. "I'm not sure I understand what the five-year provision would accomplish. Both the Senate and House bills provided the CNMI with ample flexibility to bring in workers that are needed," he said. The CNMI federalized immigration bill allows the CNMI to continue hiring foreign workers. This time however, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be tasked to administer the CNMI-only guest worker program.

US gives FSM $7M in Compact payments in July

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nineteen participants take part in the Accounting and Auditing Review training provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General to the FSM National Public Auditor, the Pohnpei State Public Auditor, and their personnel from July 10 to 12.

In July, the Federated States of Micronesia's Department of Finance received Compact grant assistance payments from the U.S. government totaling $7.02 million.

These payments were for Compact sector grants and supplementary education grants as follows: education sector grants, $2,380,845; infrastructure grants, $1,483,144; supplementary education grants, $1,334,948; health sector grants, $1,245,000; capacity building grants, $293,047; private sector development grants, $150,000; environmental sector grants, $75,000; and enhanced reporting and accountability grants, $ 59,000.

This amount is provided as support and development to the states of the FSM and the FSM national government as follows: national government, $1,385,793; Chuuk, $2,123,912; Kosrae, $ 702,414; Pohnpei, $1,624,052; and Yap, $1,184,813

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General provided accounting and auditing review training to the FSM National Public Auditor, the Pohnpei State Public Auditor, and their staffs from July 10 to 12. Claire Wyly and Elvin "Morris" Wooden from the Honolulu Field Office of Inspector General conducted the training.

Nineteen participants received training in accounting basics, risk assessment, sampling, auditing standards, performance audits, inspections and evaluations, internal controls, and single audit overview. Each participant received 24 continuing professional education credits.

Wyly and Wooden continued to Kosrae to provide the training during the week of July 16 – 18. They will return to FSM in mid-August to provide training for the Public Auditor's office in Yap, then on to Palau.

The funding for the trainings is provided through a Technical Assistance Grant from the DOI's Office of Insular Affairs. The $100,000 grant funded training opportunities for auditors and investigative staff in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Guam, and the FSM. ***(U.S. Embassy Kolonia)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Operations Manager (01)

Job Duties: Responsible for supervision, training, and management of Operations Department including but not limited to: attendance, company policy & procedure compliance, service & performance training, etc. Ensures highest standard of performance from the team. Follow up and deal with all related administration issues. Responsible for organizing, planning and conducting all kinds of expeditions, travel, and tours for groups and individuals by working closely with other department managers. Ensures all travel arrangements run according to plan and that accommodation, meals and service are satisfactory. Ensures that the tour is running smoothly for individual members of the group. Able to make and coach Operation Coordinators in designing flexible tour packages to meet the needs of different clients. Maintain effective working relationships with staff, clients, and visitors. Identify customer needs and ensure their continued business with the Company. Proactive in creating a sales culture through our people. Works closely with GM & other Department managers to maximize occupancy of rooms and meetings, rates, yield and average spends by implementing appropriate training and communication systems, also to evaluate sales performance and product on a regular basis in order to recognize challenges for the future. Actively seeks all sales and revenue opportunities both internal and external to increase the profile of company. Should be flexible and adaptable according to business/project adjustment. Responsible for required reports and maintaining records. An efficient problem solver. Report to GM/VP when assistance or support is needed. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: High school diploma and College Majors in Tourism and Travel Services Management is preferred. Previous 3-5 years work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required. Has high attention to details, is creative, and able to work with a team. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good negotiation and communication skills. Able to solve problems and has good public relations skills. Able to deal with emergencies. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Operations Clerk (02)

Job Duties: Plan, create, arrange and operate tour and travel programs. Responsible for organizing and preparing tour itineraries to make sure meeting visitors requirements. Provide and organize vacation and holidays packages by coordinating and negotiating with airlines, hotels, ground transportation services, tour guides and sightseeing providers, restaurants and other similar businesses, as per contact and agreed customer service levels. Develop and maintain smooth working relationship with customers and business partners both in China and domestic. Provide advice on sightseeing and shopping activities, report any problems to related supervisor/manager, and solve problems with accommodations, itineraries or service, etc. Perform related administrative tasks such as processing paperwork and maintaining files and working comfortably both independently and within a team. Assist the Department Manager in achieving his/her objectives. Input and update of bookings records. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum of 1 year of operation experience. High school education minimum. Good command of English and Chinese. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good writing and communication skills. Focus on details and thoroughness. Able to work with a team & under pressure. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Salary will be paid and positions will be filled commensurate with qualification, work experience and ability to perform. Worksite locations are on Saipan and at all Century Tours, Inc. offices. Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Tuesday, August 13, 2013. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Position: Manager, Front Office (1)
Qualification:
- 5 years experience and training
- Knowledge in Korea, China & Japan Tourism Market preferred
- Ability to speak & write Korean, Chinese and Japanese language preferred
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.
- Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs.
- Knowledge of business and management principles, including customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Plan and direct activities such as sales promotions, coordinating with other department heads as required.
- Establish and implement departmental policies, goals, objectives, and procedures conferring with organization officials and staff members as necessary.
- Oversee activities directly related to providing services, manage and training staff, preparing work schedules and assigning specific rules.
- Observe and monitor staff performance to ensure efficient operations and adherence to facility 's policies and procedures.
- Greet, register guests and answer inquiries pertaining to hotel and golf course policies, services and resolve guest's and occupant's complaints.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)
Qualifications:
- 7 years of experience and training
- Must be able to work flexible hours as needed
- Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repairs and maintenance. Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures and strategies to promote effective security operations for the protection of people, data, property and institution.
- Knowledge of applying principles, techniques, procedures and equipment to the design and production of various good and services.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control.
- Sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste.
- Repair, replace defective equipment, component or wiring necessary to maintain equipment and systems.
- Reassemble and test equipment following repairs.
- Tests pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and water solution.
- Comply with applicable standards, policies, and procedures including safety procedures and maintenance of a clean work area.
- Install, connect and adjust thermostats, humidistats and timers using hand tools.
- Inspect and test systems to verify system compliance with plans and specifications or to detect and locate malfunctions.
- Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment.

Position: Golf Pro (1)
Qualification:
- 4 years experience and training
- Ability to speak & write Korean, Chinese and Japanese language preferred
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.
- Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs.
- Knowledge of principles and methods for teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, meeting quality standards for services and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Provide training direction, encouragement, motivation to prepare the golfers for games, competitive events.
- Plans, organize and conduct practice sessions.
- Provide information about facilities, explain and enforce safety rules and regulations.
- Monitor activities to ensure adherence to rules and safety procedures, or arrange for the removal of unruly patrons.
- Operate, drive and explain the use of mechanical devices or equipment on the area.
- Instruct individuals or group rules, strategies and performance principles, such as specific ways of moving the body, hands or feet to achieve desired results.
- Adjust techniques, based on the strength and weakness of golfers.
- Keep abreast of changing rules, techniques, technologies and philosophies relevant to the sport.

Position: Kitchen Helper (1)
Qualifications:
- 2 years of working experience and training
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation and functions
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers and other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Wash peel, and cut various foods, such as fruits and vegetables to prepare for cooking or serving.
- Prepare a variety of foods, such as meats, vegetables, desserts, according to customer's order or supervisor's instructions following approved procedures.
- Store food in designated containers and storage areas to prevent spoilage.
- Mix ingredients for green salads, molded fruit salads, vegetables salads and pasta salads.
- Receive and store food supplies, equipment, and utensils in refrigerators, cupboards and other storage areas.
- Wash dishes, glassware, flatware, pots or pans using dishwashers or by hand.
- Place clean dishes, utensils or cooking equipment in storage areas.
- Maintain kitchen work areas, equipment, or utensils in clean and orderly condition.
- Stock supplies, such as food or utensils, in serving stations, cupboards, refrigerators or salad bars.
- Sweep or scrub floors, clean garbage cans with water or steam.
- Sort and remove trash, placing it in designated pickup areas.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.
May submit resume online at: tmatsunaga@laolaobay.com
Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on August 23, 2013.
Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The repressed Rohingya of Myanmar

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Friday, Aug. 9:*

The relationship between the White House and the government of Myanmar has been steadily improving. President Obama went there in November; President Thein Sein came here in May. Last year, the administration eased the prohibition on Americans doing business in Myanmar, and this week, it repealed most of the remaining sanctions on trade (although it will continue to ban the import of rubies and jadeite).

These are Myanmar's well-deserved rewards for embarking on a program of liberalization and democracy—moving away from absolute military rule, holding credible elections and freeing many political prisoners. Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy activist who spent 15 years under house arrest, has been in parliament for more than a year.

And yet for the 1 million Rohingya Muslims in the country, life is only getting worse. The Rohingya are an ethnic minority considered to be intruders by the government of Myanmar and by much of the country's majority Buddhist population. Thousands have been displaced from their homes in the western state of Rakhine by mob violence and are now relegated to camps for displaced persons. The United Nations has declared the Rohingya among the most persecuted groups in the world.

Last November, Sein said he would allow the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to set up an office in the country, in part to monitor the plight of the Rohingya. But human rights advocates say the government has dragged its feet and the office has not yet been established, although a U.N independent investigator, or special rapporteur, has been allowed to make several trips through Myanmar recently.

It's appropriate for the U.S. to recognize and reward the advances that Myanmar has made. But it should not turn a blind eye to the country's continuing problems, including religious and ethnic tension. It should exercise what clout it has to help the U.N. set up the human rights office, and should push strenuously for authorities to dismantle repressive policies against the Rohingya, such as limiting families to two children.

The U.S. role is especially important because there are still so few powerful voices of protest within the country. Suu Kyi has spoken only tepidly against the repressive policies toward the Rohingya—and many in her country didn't like that she weighed in at all. A troubling anti-Muslim nationalism is spreading in Myanmar, and it will take pressure from the U.S. along with other countries and the U.N. to dispel it.

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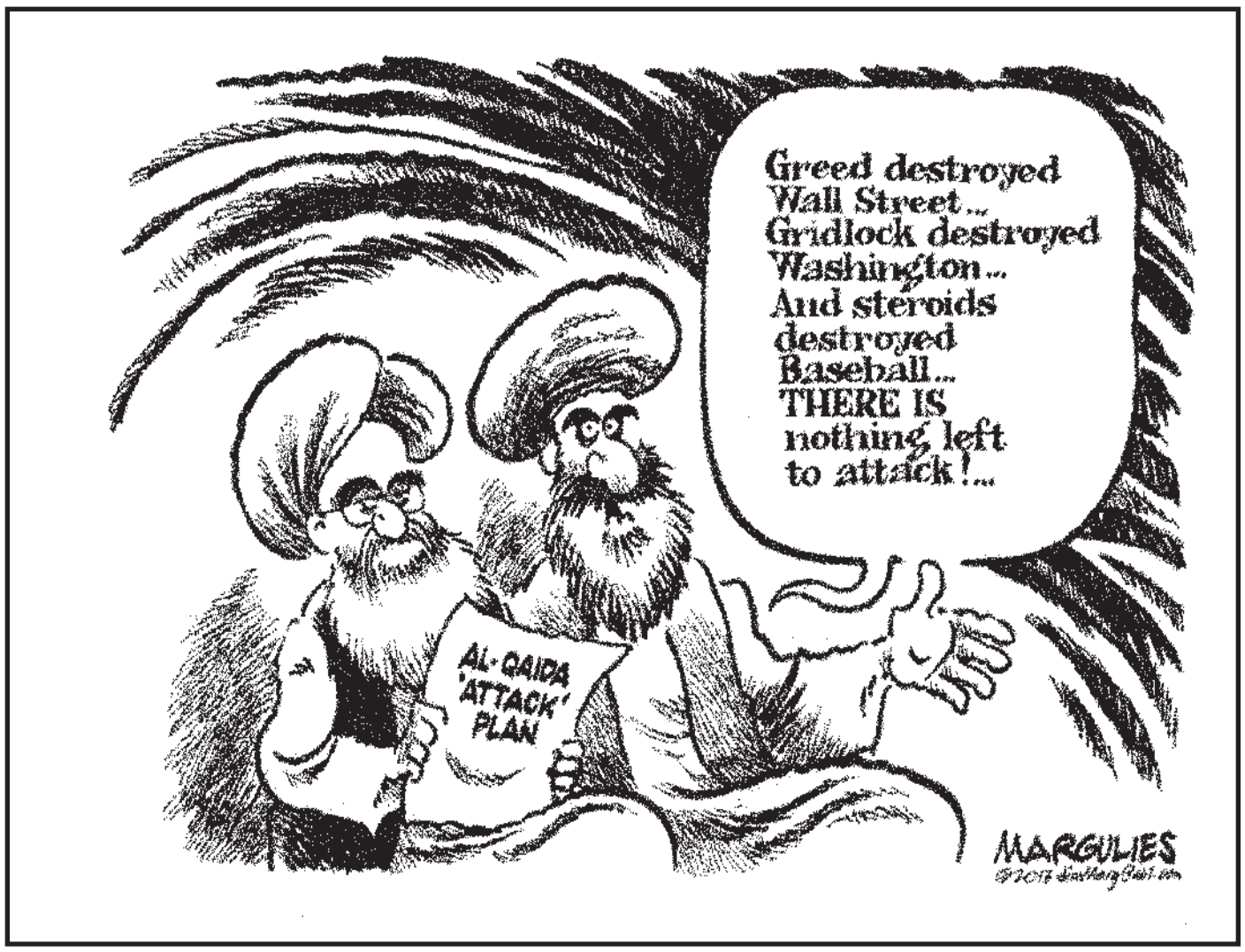
Keeping secrets secret

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Wednesday, Aug. 7:*

Even before former National Security Agency consultant Edward Snowden exposed the breathtaking extent of the intelligence agency's electronic surveillance programs, civil libertarians worried that information obtained as part of anti-terrorism investigations might

See SECRETS on Page 11


Greed destroyed Wall Street... Gridlock destroyed Washington... And steroids destroyed Baseball... THERE IS nothing left to attack!...
AL-QAIDA 'ATTACK' PLAN
MARGULIES

Hibakusha

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

"Atoms for Peace" in my youth was initiated by President Eisenhower to allay the fears of the world on the consequences of the A-bomb on Hiroshima and the H-bomb in Nagasaki by promoting the possible benefits of harnessed nuclear power. Two of the countries that benefited from the program are Iran and Pakistan.

Addressing the UN General Assembly on Dec. 8, 1953, President Ike started with an apology: "I feel impelled to speak today in a language that in a sense is new—one which I, who have spent so much of my life in the military profession, would have preferred never to use. That new language is the language of atomic warfare."

The rock band Atoms for Peace, organized in 2009, released their first album titled *Amok.* Iran has become a U.S. sworn enemy for refusing to concede its desire to join the ranks of those deriving their sense of security by nuclear muscle; Pakistan, is, well, read the news. So much for atoms for peace!

We are upwind from Fukushima and the continuing threat of radiation, including the massive seepage of contaminated water, has become something to be taken for granted. The rationale for atomic power in the China grid comes from its reliance on coal, and though the country reportedly has four reactors, mostly in the east coast, one of them is reportedly in my neighborhood.

We are not against continuing research in nuclear energy, though we have commented enough to the way commercial profit precedes safety considerations and with the global climate change that is evidently moving the tectonic plates more frequently and strongly than before, and the havoc of typhoons and hurricane more intense and devastating, words of caution are drowned by commerce in the bottom line of financial institutions along the endowed hallways of science and technology. Not to mention the jingoistic drumbeat of national breast thumping! I teach at an aerospace university and I should know.

It is to the *hibakusha,* literally the "explosion-affected people," that our attention is riveted on this month, one, because of the false notions attendant to their treatment, and the failure of government bodies to acknowledge the insidious effect of mental prejudices against victims.

Not as an aside but a witness, I am in a network of teachers teaching Vietnam and am a supporter of Jan Scruggs-led efforts of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC. While a Mr. Mom within the beltway in the '90s, I spent a lot of time contemplating the black granite Wall on the Mall. Names of some 60,000 dead veterans of that war, often referred to as the ignored war for its general unpopularity, are etched on the stone, and the stark "thereness" of the Wall stands as a contrast to the other memorials that tend to glorify wars of devastations. There is even a Wall that Heals, a mobile exhibit that goes around the country.

We mention this because in both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial parks are etched the names of some 440,000 *hibakusha* known to have died since the bombings. It is also because one of the quiet but remarkable teaching fellows on my floor at the university's Friendship Villa who tutored students on the Japanese language hails from Nagasaki and was relatively shy about discussing the effects of the bombs and the proliferation of nuclear energy in Japan. He left last year to attend to his wife's health. She refused to come to Manchuria because of the region's disdain of things Japanese, from Nippon's migration to the area in the aftermath of the collapse of the Qing Dynasty of the Manchus.

In my time, discrimination against blacks in America, or anyone with darker skin anywhere in the world, defined a huge component of the issues that surrounded my existence. Next came the treatment of women, or more accurately, our mistreatment of half of the planet's population. Prejudice is decidedly a mental construct; it can be deconstructed!

The *hibakusha* and their children are victims of severe discrimination in Japan due to ignorance about the consequences of radiation sickness, with many believing it to be hereditary and contagious. There is no increase of birth defects or congenital malformations found among the children born to survivors of the nuclear weapons used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nor found in children of cancer survivors who receive radiotherapy. Survivors exposed to substantial amounts of radiation went on to have children with no higher incidence of abnormalities/birth defects than the normal rate.

A notable aside: the Japanese government recognized Tsutomu Yamaguchi as a double *hibakusha*. He was 3 km from Hiroshima ground zero when the bomb detonated and was burnt on his left side. He returned to his home city of Nagasaki on Aug. 8, a day before the bomb in Nagasaki was dropped, and he was exposed to residual radiation searching for relatives. He died in 2010 at 93 of stomach cancer.

Our world is full of *hibakusha,* including the mental-implosion affected ones. We still have not neutralized the N-word in America, and the Chinese call the Japanese *hu kuo,* referring to the pirates of old. Old prejudices never die; they do not even fade away!

Of course, we do not discriminate ethnically or otherwise in the CNMI, right? Say that again?

Bisiun esbilta (atlibes)

Buente pot man-tautau hit na lamegai besis 'nai ta panak adeñgta halom gi pachotta pot diskuidu. Lau che'chu' tautau este ayu mina' todu man-pinalalalae'.

Pot ihemplu: Man-alie' hit yan mediku. Man-manae' hit amot para ta gimen pot tres dias. Man-mama' mediku hit lokue' ya ta pega i amot gi estanten kusina.

Tres dias dispues, mas umadet chenotta ya ensegidas tafalague hospitat. 'Nai ha faisen hit i mediku kau ta komple gumimen i amot, ta oppe na huñgan. Haf' piligruña este?

I amot dos klase guaha: I regulat na "L" yan atlibes na "L". I mediku ninae' hau finenina ni regulat na "L". Kumu ti inayuda hau (ya magahet na un' gimen todu), pues i atlibes na "L" debi un' nina' maguñg pinadesimu.

Yangin mandage hau, pues mas inaminasa chenotmu ni sigundu amot. Pot essu na debi un' tatiye inetden i mediku. Muñga mama' mediku sa' ti ma-estudia hau che'chu doktu.

■■■

Ti magimen amot niha taimanu tinagu' i mediku. 'Nai man-inadite, mana' fan hanau para Hawaii para mas riseta. Ha chule' i medikun Hawaii i amot ya ha yute'.

Ilegña un' malañgu, "Ha yute' todu i mediku i amot ginen Saipan". Dos masusede ni tita repara: 1). Taya' binabaña amot Saipan lau hagu umesague 'nai ti man-osge hau tinagu' mediku. 2). Debi ha' u yute' i amot sa' gai kabu' gi tendan amot ya mauleg para i betsaña.

■■■

Sige man-achatge 'nos kuantos man-ma'gas un' Bietnes Santu 'nai mamifila par u fan amotsan taloane gi hotel. Ilegña i unu na makat para u kontradise i mapraktitika ni mañgatoliku gi ayu na okasion. Era, ha polu kumu isau dañkulu chumochu katne gi Bietnes Santu.

Ni ñañgun ni amiguña na u konsige umamotsa maseha katne. "Ayu 'nai na mana' guaha konfisionariu para un' sañgane si pale' ni isaumu. Chochu pa'gu, agupa konfisat ñaihon". A` Saina! Muñga sa' kumuentos siempre i idu 'an kada ratuyu' humalom gi konfisinariu pot ambientoghu!

■■■

Ha faisenyu' un' amiguhu haf' na mampos-yu' masogsug. Hu sañgane na unu pot idathu yan lokue' pot chenot ruskete—daibetes. Ha petsige mama' i mediku yan tafkau ha' siha na kuestion. 'Nai hu sañgane na guiya i chenot diabetes masasañgan "mames haga'", ensegidas ilegña na debi bai' kanue' asiga ya u dinistempla dididi' i mames. Ai na grasia 'nai hu faisen haf' amotña i atiluñg lasas mame?

■■■

Ilegña i amiguhu lokue' na guaha bintahaña mayogua giya sasalaguan. "Manu 'nai un' soda' todu i tiempu guaha na'mu barbecue entalu' adeñgmu yan kostiyasmu?" Hu sañgane na taya' hanom giya papa', ni sisonyan. Ai, ilegña na para u famatinas tañkeña antes de u hanau. Tiha oppeyu' manu 'nai para u fan lupog hanum?

■■■

I Amerikanu ha baba i lepblu ginen me'na. I Japones, ginen tatte. Dispues de ta payune finana'guen Amerikanu, makat ta aksepta mataitai materiat ginen i talu' soluke un' tutuhon ginen me'na.

Gi duranten negosiun Covenant gi 1972, man-presenta i primet abugau inestudian ligat siha na asuntu. Ha faisen i membro para u baba lepblun niha guatu gi pahina numeru 43. Duru mangoñgguñg sa' hafa na para pahina 43 ya ti matutuhon gi primet pahina. Ilegña un' membro, "Hombre ke unu mamapot, ha tutuhon i talu' hit". A` Saina!

■■■

Taya' amot daibites malalagnos para una maguñg i chenot. Ni unu gi mediku ni numae' hit amot daibites tumuñgu haf' otru aminasu para ta padese ginen amot siha ni ninae'n niha.

I amot mafatinas para una maguñg i chenot. Yangin guaha amot daibites, haf' na mas megai man-nina'ye tautau dispues man-mapega gi listan "Mas matuñgoña as_____?" Ti umafagcha' haf' man-sañgan yan masusede dispues.

■■■

Ilegña un' cantata: "Estabayu' gi oriyan tañke, kana' mamataiyu' ma'hu". Ke lau haf' minapotña un' lotge sikosmu gi pachot grifu?

■■■

I otru sige kumanta pot mafababaña. 'Nai hu rikonose, guiya si brutu mama'baba ya ha konbinsen maisague' na guiya i malaime. Dios tiampare! Ke lau haf' minapotña un' sañgan i magahet? Tatnai sisida para un' i'iba' pot dakon-mu!

■■■

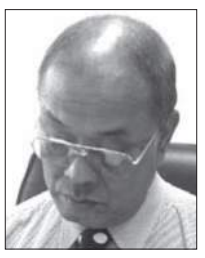
Mampos ansianu i amiguhu homlu'. Todu masañganeña ha hoñgge. Hu sañgane na u chage talañgan kulebla. Sige man-aligau sinparat. Lau tiha tuñgu' na i kulebla tai talañga na ga'ga'. Bai' aligau ya baina na'lu fino'hu. De dios Iku!

Ennau i 17 pot sientu na familia giya Guam umu'usa finu' Chamorro. Los dimas, man-finu' Iñglis diariu. Kase mas hihot mafnas usun liñguahen natibu gi bisinu.

■■■

Ilegña un' prohimu na parehu sustansian "mandiskatga" yan "managu". Yangin minagahet ennau, pues siña lokue' ta sañgan na "managu" i ruplanu. Lokue', atan haf' difirensian "Mandiskatga" yan "Madiskatga". I mefena pot tautau, i tatte pot kosas.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

America squanders its human capital

My family's newest member popped into the world with this year's crocuses, just in time for UNICEF's report card on child well-being.

Unbeknown to our bundle of joy, the country of his birth was down at the bottom of the list of 29 nations, with Latvia, Lithuania and Romania. By the time he had been on Earth a month, the Academic Pediatric Association had released its strategic road map, proclaiming poverty the "greatest problem for children in the U.S." In June, as he moved into Week 12 of newborn life, the Clintons declared all the nation's kids "Too Small to Fail."

Thus my grandson was ushered into America's garden of human capital.

Economists have been talking about human capital—skills, creativity, enterprise—since the 17th century, when a man named William Petty, a forerunner of Adam Smith, made one of the first attempts to estimate the monetary value of a human being.

His 21st century descendants are still on the case. Invest in families and nurture cognitive and social skills in children from birth to age 5, exhorts Nobel laureate economist James Heckman any chance he gets. The payoff—7 percent to 10 percent on the dollar—in greater academic success, future productivity and economic prosperity is the best investment around.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is also a cheerleader. "When individuals are denied opportunities to reach their maximum potential," he said in a speech last year at the Children's Defense Fund, "it harms not only those individuals but also the larger economy, which depends vitally on having a skilled, productive workforce."

We're not doing well, alas, in maximizing potential. According to the most recent "Kids' Share" report from the Urban Institute, federal spending on children fell by $2 billion from 2010 to 2011, the first dip in 30 years. The children's share of the budget pie was reduced from 10.7 percent to 10.4 percent. By 2022, the children's portion of the budget is expected to drop to 8 percent and their share of GDP is expected to drop from 2.5 percent to 1.9 percent, which will include significant cuts in early care and education. With the Census Bureau reporting nearly 25 percent of the nation's children younger than age 6 in poverty, this is not good news.

Relative to other advanced economies, the U.S. track record is dismal. Just take a look at the Social Expenditure Database from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. We're at the low end in rankings of average public spending on family benefits in the form of cash, services and tax credits. Or at the OECD's Social Justice Index, which examines, among other policies, health quality, access to education and poverty prevention in 31 countries. In the category of health, the U.S. stands at No. 23; in access to education, it's at No. 20, on the cusp of the lower third of the nations surveyed.

We now know more than ever about how to nurture human capital, with eye-popping technology offering graphic evidence of the rapid pace and complexity of brain development in the first years of life. The bottom line is that kids need time for sensitive, stimulating interactions with adults to promote growth, resilience and mastery, the foundations for their healthy development and academic success. They need access to good health care and nutrition, and high-quality early learning settings, not to mention viable communities invested in their well-being.

But why bother? By some estimates, human capital creates two-thirds of a modern economy's wealth. That's a pretty compelling argument, especially for those who have no truck with the rights of children, or warm and fuzzy feelings about the pint-sized members of our species. I prefer to look through the lens of child development expert Alison Gopnik, who sees babies and young children as the "R&D department of the human species—the blue-sky guys, the brainstormers."

Existing U.S. policies give short shrift to our budding innovators. They also leave families, venture capitalists for these future wealth producers, in the lurch. Americans labor more, and longer, than any other people in the world. The work-family juggling act has reached Sisyphean proportions, and stress levels are stratospheric. Parents, and other caregivers, need adequate resources, knowledge and support in the work of raising the next generation—like their peers in the global village.

Isn't it time we rolled up our sleeves, joined the rest of the world's advanced economies and changed the calculus for children?

By SUSAN OCHSHORN
Los Angeles Times

Susan Ochshorn is the founder of ECE PolicyWorks and the author of a forthcoming book about the importance of early childhood education. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leave Kilili alone

Leave Kilili alone in Washington, D.C. to get the job done. He was elected to represent the people of the CNMI there. He knows where is north, south, east, and west inside Washington, D.C. When you come to see him at his office, please don't try to lecture him. Rather than lecture him, follow him to lead you to your destination.

Yes, right now here in the CNMI there are many boogy dogs about immigration. But those who are talking are only talking out of indoctrination amongst themselves. So to set the records and facts straight, let's all leave Kilili alone in Washington, D.C. to get the job done.

Martin M. Sakisat
Garapan, Saipan

SECRETS

From Page 10

find its way to the criminal justice system and that Americans would be tried and convicted on evidence obtained without warrants, in violation of the 4th Amendment.

Is that happening? As with much about the NSA, it is hard to be sure. Two recent news reports sent conflicting signals.

The New York Times reported last week that the NSA had rebuffed requests that it share its data with law enforcement agencies that wanted to use the information to investigate crimes including drug trafficking, cyberattacks, money laundering, counterfeiting and even copyright infringement.

That was encouraging. But two days later Reuters reported that a secretive unit of the Drug Enforcement Administration had been "funneling information from intelligence intercepts, wiretaps, informants and a massive database of telephone records to authorities across the nation to help them launch criminal investigations of Americans." Moreover, Reuters reported, law enforcement agents had been directed to conceal how such investigations began.

As far as we know, the DEA doesn't have access to the telephone records of virtually every American that the NSA has scooped up under a broad interpretation of the Patriot Act. But the Reuters story suggests that the DEA and other law enforcement agencies may be using other information obtained by the NSA, under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Under that law, the NSA—with minimal supervision by the FISA court—may examine the contents of the phone calls, email and social media postings of foreigners reasonably believed to be outside the United States.

Inevitably some of those intercepted communications from foreigners will contain information about Americans as well. In June the Guardian published a memo from Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. setting forth procedures by which the NSA must "minimize" such information. Although data about Americans ordinarily must be discarded or redacted, the memo allows for their transmission to other agencies if there is evidence of the commission of a crime. The memo refers to a federal law that allows such information to be used in a criminal proceeding only with the advance approval of the attorney general.

Even if one accepts that preventing terrorism requires extraordinary surveillance measures, those measures must not provide a back door for the prosecution of Americans for drug offenses or any other crime on the basis of evidence that wasn't obtained in accordance with the Constitution. As it rises from its somnolence to ask hard questions about the NSA, Congress needs to ensure that that door is closed.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

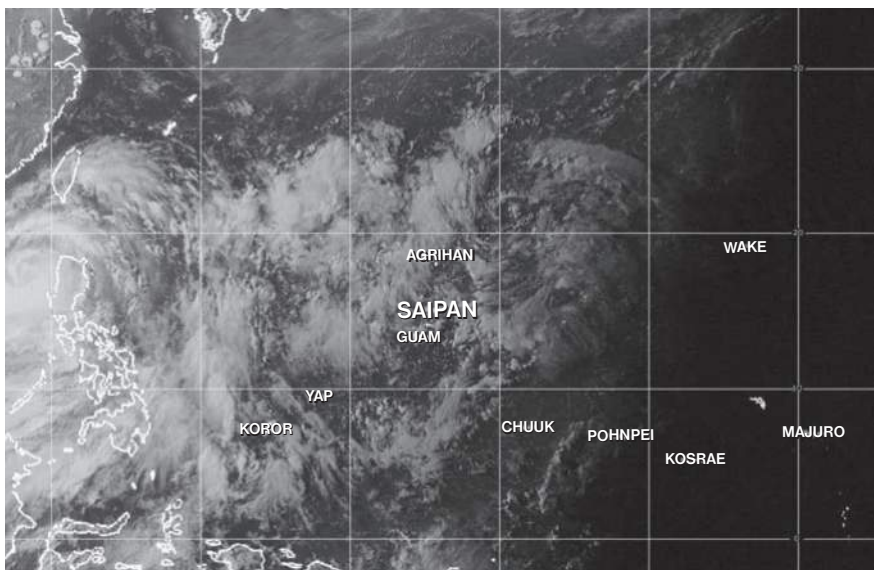
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲83	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Sunny	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲87	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲68	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼43
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼63
Osaka	Sunny	▲97	▼78
Paris	Cloudy	▲72	▼51
Pusan	Windy	▲88	▼77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼69
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼76
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough sprawled over the Mariana Islands region along with several embedded upper-lows was triggering showers and isolated thunderstorms in numerous areas between 13N and 25N from 136E to 157E and north of Wake Island within 100 miles of 24N165E. A monsoon trough curves southeastward from Luzon across 12N130E to between Koror and Yap at 9N136E then ending near 3N139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau and southwest of Yap are southwest of a line from 20N130E to 5N140E. A surface trough west of Chuuk runs northeastward from 5N145E to 10N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 125 miles of the trough axis. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area from Kosrae across the Marshall Islands to beyond the date line or east of a line from 3N161E to 7N161E to 10N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
1:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:06 AM	10:59 PM
Wednesday	12:03 PM	11:49 PM
Thursday	1:02 PM	
Friday	2:01 AM	12:44 AM
Saturday	3:01 AM	1:43 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
OZ1077	4:50am	7:10am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
DL583	5:50am	8:30am	2, 5, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ612	3:40am	7:20am	Daily
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
OZ1087	10:00pm	2:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
DL582	8:30pm	1:00am+1	1, 4, 5
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ611	9:10pm	2:40am+1	Daily
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Retailers keeping tabs on consumers' return habits

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's not just the government that might be keeping tabs on you. Many retailers are tracking you, too—or at least your merchandise returns.

The companies say it's all in the name of security and fighting fraud. They want to be able to identify chronic returners or gangs of thieves trying to make off with high-end products that are returned later for store credit.

Consumer advocates are raising transparency issues about the practice of having companies collect information on consumers and create "return profiles" of customers at big-name stores such as Best Buy, J.C. Penney, Victoria's Secret, Home Depot and Nike.

The practice led to a privacy lawsuit against Best Buy that eventually was tossed out.

Each year, consumers return about $264 billion worth of merchandise, or almost 9 percent of total sales, according to industry estimates.

Many buyers aren't aware that some returns, with and without receipts, are being monitored at stores that outsource that information to a third-party company, which creates a "return profile" that catalogs and analyzes the customer's returns at the store.

"I had absolutely no idea they were doing that," said Mari Torres of Springfield, Va., during a shopping trip with her daughter at the Pentagon City Mall in Arlington, Va. "I honestly think it's an invasion of privacy."

Torres, 39, says she's a responsible shopper and she'd like to know what kind of information retailers keep on her, with whom they may be sharing it, and how long they keep it.

One company that offers return tracking services, The Retail Equation (TRE) in Irvine, Calif., says it doesn't share information in the profiles it creates with outside parties or with other stores.

For example, if TRE logs and analyzes returns from a Victoria's Secret customer, TRE only reports back to Victoria's Secret about the return activity. It does not then also share that information with J.C. Penney or other retailers that use TRE.

Even so, consumer advocates don't like it.

"There should be no secret databases. That's a basic rule of privacy practices," says Ed Mierzwinski, consumer program director at the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. "Consumers should know that information is being collected about them."

The retail industry says it's not about monitoring the majority of its shoppers, but fighting theft.

Lisa LaBruno, senior vice president of retail operations at the Retail Industry Leaders Association, says organized retail crime is costing retailers tens of billions of dollars each year.

LaBruno says the problem goes way beyond the small-time shoplifter and involves organized groups of criminals that make a living from the large-scale theft of merchandise. For example, they might switch the UPC code on a $600 faucet with a lower-cost code that rings up at $50. They buy the faucet, then replace the fake UPC tag with the original, higher-priced code, and return the faucet to the store without the receipt for a $600 store credit, which can later be sold online.

"It's not to invade the privacy of legitimate customers at all," LaBruno said in an interview. "It's one of many, many, creative solutions out there to help combat a really big problem that affects retailers, honest customers, the entire industry and the public at-large."

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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Seething at 'pay for performance'

QUESTION: I am appalled by the "pay for performance" system recently implemented by my company, which has more than 10,000 employees. Forced rankings are used to assign performance review scores, so 60 percent of the staff must now be rated as "meets expectations." Only 10 percent are allowed to receive the highest rating of "outstanding."

To place people in rating categories, each department holds a meeting in which the managers discuss their employees' performance. Names are moved around until every category is filled. Even if there are many outstanding staff members, only 10 percent can get the top score.

I feel sure that all the managers will lobby for their own employees, so those of us who work for less persuasive or influential people are likely to lose out. What do you think about this approach?

ANSWER: Since most people agree that greater contributions merit greater rewards, "pay for performance" makes perfect sense conceptually. The problem is that virtually everyone believes they are "above average," so lower ratings often trigger lengthy debates. To avoid these unpleasant arguments, many managers, left to their own devices, simply give higher ratings to everybody.

Forced rankings represent a logical attempt to require managers to differentiate among levels of performance. But while these standardized distributions work well across large populations, like your 10,000-employee company, they are completely invalid with small groups, such as a 10-person team. Trying to manage this contradiction can drive human resources people crazy.

Your company's group ranking approach spreads the performance distribution across entire departments instead of applying it to each individual unit, which is a reasonable strategy for increasing validity. But, as you point out, assigning ratings through open discussion can easily create a "squeaky wheel" bias.

If your boss seems to be a predictably feeble advocate, consider sharing this concern with your human resources manager. That may help to balance the scales, since the HR department is almost always involved in establishing final rankings. While your company's new system certainly has both pros and cons, the same is unfortunately true of every other appraisal method.

Q: I work with a group of people who like to discuss their personal lives. Every Monday morning, someone will ask what my boyfriend and I did over the weekend. I am private by nature and would prefer not to share this information, but I don't want to seem rude. How should I handle these nosy co-workers?

A: Most of the time, "What did you do this weekend?" is an innocuous query, similar to "How are you?" People are asking just to be polite. They have no interest in hearing a detailed account of events and would probably be dismayed to receive one.

Therefore, you can simply respond with a brief and bland answer—like "oh, the usual stuff" or "nothing very interesting"—quickly followed by an inquiry about your colleague's activities. Since most people greatly prefer talking about themselves, this question should shift the conversational focus. The price you must pay for privacy is listening to the answer.

AP

A woman with a parasol walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Friday, Aug. 2, 2013 as Japan's Nikkei 225 index surged 3.3 percent to 14,466.16, with export shares boosted by a weakening yen.

Japan economy up sluggish 2.6 percent for quarter

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy grew at a slower-than-expected rate of 2.6 percent last quarter, suggesting demand has been slow to pick up despite strong public spending and ultra-lax monetary policies.

The GDP figure reported by the Cabinet Office on Monday reflects a 0.6 percent increase from the previous quarter for the world's third-largest economy, as the recovery was sustained despite the weaker than anticipated growth.

More than 3.0 percent growth in annual terms had been forecast for the April-June period, after the economy expanded at a 4.1 percent pace in January-March. The weaker data will likely raise pressure on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to push ahead with reforms he has promised to help improve Japan's competitiveness and sustain growth in the long run.

If forecasts for a fall-off in growth in the current quarter are accurate, the pressure for more radical reforms is bound to build, as investors watch for signs that Abe's "Abenomics strategy" can really fuel a lasting recovery from years of stagnation.

The data show the strongest contribution to growth coming from public spending and exports, while private investment weakened.

Many of Japan's corporations have seen their profitability improve as the yen has weakened against other currencies, boosting the value of their overseas earnings when they are counted in yen terms. The recovery in exports has been a boon for big global corporations like Toyota Motor Corp.

But corporate investment has remained flat, falling 0.1 percent in April to June. Meanwhile, wages have risen only for some workers, accentuating concerns over whether household income will keep pace as prices rise under the government's campaign to end deflation through extreme monetary easing.

Abe and some of his advisers have expressed uncertainty over a government commitment to raise the sales tax by 3 percent in April. A decision on that is due within months, and it appears increasingly likely Abe might opt for a more gradual approach to raising the tax, which now stands at 5 percent, to help improve public finances.

US gas prices drop 8 cents over past 2 weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline has fallen about 8 cents over the past two weeks.

The Lundberg Survey of gas prices released Sunday says the price of a gallon of regular is $3.60. Midgrade costs an average of $3.78 a gallon, and premium is $3.92.

Lundberg Survey President Trilby Lundberg says refiners are over-producing gasoline and slashing their wholesale prices to move product.

Of the cities surveyed in the Lower 48 states, Charleston, S.C., has the nation's lowest average price for regular gasoline at $3.27 a gallon. Chicago and San Diego have the highest average price at $3.92.

The lowest average price in California is $3.72 in Sacramento. The average statewide for a gallon of regular is $3.86, down 11 cents from two weeks ago.

Nation

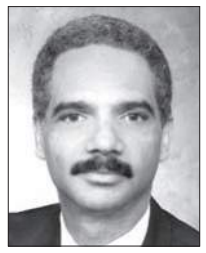
Holder proposes changes in criminal justice system

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General Eric Holder is calling for major changes to the nation's criminal justice system that would scale back the use of harsh prison sentences for certain drug-related crimes, divert people convicted of low-level offenses to drug treatment and community service programs and expand a prison program to allow for release of some elderly, non-violent offenders.

In remarks prepared for delivery Monday to the American Bar Association in San Francisco, Holder said he is mandating a change to Justice Department policy so that low-level, non-violent drug offenders with no ties to large-scale organizations, gangs or cartels won't be charged with offenses that impose mandatory minimum sentences.

Mandatory minimum prison sentences—a product of the government's war on drugs in the 1980s—limit the discretion of judges to impose shorter prison sentences.

Under the altered policy, the attorney general said defendants will instead be charged with offenses for which accompanying sentences "are better suited to their individual conduct, rather than excessive prison terms more appropriate for violent criminals or drug kingpins."



Holder

Federal prisons are operating at nearly 40 percent above capacity and hold more than 219,000 inmates—with almost half of them serving time for drug-related crimes and many of them with substance use disorders. In addition, 9 million to 10 million prisoners go through local jails each year. Holder praised state and local law enforcement officials for already instituting some of the types of changes Holder says must be made at the federal level.

Aggressive enforcement of federal criminal laws is necessary, but "we cannot simply prosecute or incarcerate our way to becoming a safer nation," Holder said. "Today, a vicious cycle of poverty, criminality and incarceration traps too many Americans and weakens too many communities. However, many aspects of our criminal justice system may actually exacerbate this problem, rather than alleviate it."

"We need to ensure that incarceration is used to punish, deter and rehabilitate—not merely to convict, warehouse and forget," said the attorney general.

Holder said mandatory minimum sentences "breed disrespect for the system. When applied indiscriminately, they do not serve public safety. They have had a disabling effect on communities. And they are ultimately counterproductive."

Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Rand Paul, R-Ky., have introduced legislation aimed at giving federal judges more discretion in applying mandatory minimums to certain drug offenders.

Holder said new approaches—which he is calling the "Smart On Crime" initiative—are the result of a Justice Department review he launched early this year.

The attorney general said some issues are best handled at the state or local level and said he has directed federal prosecutors across the country to develop locally tailored guidelines for determining when federal charges should be filed, and when they should not.

"By targeting the most serious offenses, prosecuting the most dangerous criminals, directing assistance to crime `hot spots,' and pursuing new ways to promote public safety, deterrence, efficiency and fairness—we can become both smarter and tougher on crime," Holder said.

The attorney general said 17 states have directed money away from prison construction and toward programs and services such as treatment and supervision that are designed to reduce the problem of repeat offenders.

In Kentucky, legislation has reserved prison beds for the most serious offenders and refocused resources on community supervision. The state, Holder said, is projected to reduce its prison population by more than 3,000 over the next 10 years, saving more than $400 million.

Ancient Pa. dwelling still divides archaeologists

AVELLA, Pa. (AP)—A fluke rainstorm at an ancient rock shelter in western Pennsylvania has brought a renowned archaeologist back to the site of where a furious debate was launched in 1973 over when the first humans came to the Americas.

As a young archaeologist, Jim Adovasio found radiocarbon evidence that humans had visited the Meadowcroft site 16,000 years ago. To archaeologists it was a stunning discovery that contradicted the so-called Clovis first theory, which dated the first settlement in the Americas to New Mexico about 13,000 years ago.

The question is important because it ties into bigger questions on how and why so many different cultures developed in the Americas, and whether they all descended from one group that came across from Asia or arrived in multiple waves.

On that question, Adovasio's theory of multiple visits has mostly won out since other pre-Clovis sites have been discovered in North and South America.

The picture of early humans in the Americas "is so much more complicated than we ever thought it was 40 years ago," said Adovasio, a Mercyhurst University professor who returned to Meadowcroft after a decayed tree root let heavy rain flow into a part of the enclosed dig area in late July. The damage was unfortunate but presented an opportunity to reexamine the site, he said.

Meadowcroft is located on the banks of a small stream, about 7 miles upstream from the Ohio River. The overhanging sandstone ledges provided a perfect place for roving band of early humans to shelter from the elements.

"It has all the attractions of a prehistoric Holiday Inn, and that's why they used it," Adovasio said, noting that some early groups stayed for only a few days, but the spot was passed down through oral histories and people returned, eventually for longer periods.

AP

The new shelter at Meadowcroft has allowed many more visitors to see the amazing site.

Tenn. judge changes infant's name from 'Messiah'

NEWPORT, Tenn. (AP)—A judge in Tennessee changed a 7-month-old boy's name to Martin from Messiah, saying the religious name was earned by one person and "that one person is Jesus Christ."

Child Support Magistrate Lu Ann Ballew ordered the name change last week, according to WBIR-TV. The boy's parents were in court because they could not agree on the child's last name, but when the judge heard the boy's first name, she ordered it changed, too.

"It could put him at odds with a lot of people and at this point he has had no choice in what his name is," Ballew said.

It was the first time she ordered a first name change, the judge said.

Messiah was No. 4 among the fastest-rising baby names in 2012, according to the Social Security Administration's annual list of popular baby names.

The judge in eastern Tennessee said the baby was to be named Martin DeShawn McCullough, which includes both parents' last name.

The boy's mother, Jaleesa Martin, of Newport, said she will appeal. She says Messiah is unique and she liked how it sounded alongside the boy's two siblings—Micah and Mason.

"Everybody believes what they want so I think I should be able to name my child what I want to name him, not someone else," Martin said.

Ballew said the name Messiah could cause problems if the child grows up in Cocke County, which has a large Christian population.

"The word Messiah is a title and it's a title that has only been earned by one person and that one person is Jesus Christ," the judge said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Family: US man detained in N. Korea hospitalized

SEATTLE (AP)—An American man detained in North Korea for the past nine months has been hospitalized after losing more than 50 pounds, and the need to bring him home is becoming more urgent, his sister said Sunday. Kenneth Bae, a 45-year-old tour operator and Christian missionary, was arrested in November and accused of subversive activities against the authoritarian government. He was sentenced in May to 15 years hard labor, and in letters to his family in the Seattle area he described working in the fields weeding and planting beans and potatoes. Bae's sister, Terri Chung, of Edmonds, said Sunday the family recently learned that he has been transferred from the labor camp to a hospital. Her brother suffers from diabetes, an enlarged heart, liver problems and back pain, she said.

Father kills son, himself at YWCA offices in NH

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire software engineer shot his 9-year-old son to death before taking his own life during supervised visitation at a YWCA office, officials said Sunday. An adult supervisor was present when Muni Savyon, 54, of Manchester, took out a handgun and shot 9-year-old Joshua Savyon of Amherst before shooting himself around 10 a.m., the attorney general's office said. The father sent an email to a friend suggesting he was suicidal before the shootings, said Rabbi Levi Krinsky of Chabad Lubavitch in Manchester. Krinsky said Savyon had been depressed after recently returning from his brother's funeral in Israel but he had seen him last week and had no concerns he would harm himself or someone else.

2-year-old boy abducted from RI home found safe

JOHNSTON, R.I. (AP)—A 2-year-old boy kidnapped from a Rhode Island home where police made an early morning discovery of two bodies was found Sunday night "in good health," police said. Johnston Deputy Police Chief Daniel Parrillo said the boy was found in Providence, but he would not provide any other details on the circumstances. The search for the boy, Isaiah Perez, began after the two bodies were discovered about 5:20 a.m. at a home in Johnston, a town of 30,000 residents less than 10 miles from Providence. Two men were arrested in the double homicide and Isaiah's abduction, while police had continued their search "any place and every place" for the child, Parrillo said. Parrillo said investigators believe the two were killed between 4:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. and the boy was taken from the home. The names of the two dead were not immediately released.

Missouri Fair clown draws criticism for Obama mask

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A clown wearing a President Barack Obama mask appeared at a Missouri State Fair rodeo this weekend and the announcer asked the enthusiastic spectators if they wanted to see "Obama run down by a bull." The antics led the state's second highest-ranking official, Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, to denounce the performance in a tweet Sunday. He said it was "disrespectful" to the president. "We are better than this," the Republican tweeted. State Fair officials said the show in Sedalia was "inappropriate" and "does not reflect the opinions or standards" of the fair. "We strive to be a family friendly event and regret that Saturday's rodeo badly missed that mark," they said in a statement Sunday.

Asia

Typhoon batters Philippines; 23 fishermen missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful typhoon struck the northern Philippines on Monday, toppling power lines and dumping heavy rains across mountains, cities and food-growing plains and leaving at least 23 fishermen missing.

Typhoon Utor, described as the strongest typhoon globally so far this year, slammed ashore in mountainous eastern Aurora province with sustained winds of 175 kilometers (109 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 210 kph (130 mph).

About 1,000 residents in the central Bicol region spent the night in shelters while Aurora province was without power, the national disaster agency said. Radio stations reported roofs were blown off and a covered basketball court washed away in Dinalungan town.

There was no immediate word on casualties, but 23 fishermen who were out at sea failed to return home in four towns in Catanduanes province, according to their families. Authorities were hoping they just took shelter in coves and nearby islands, said Office of Civil Defense regional director Bernardo Alejandro IV.

"I hope they're just waiting for the typhoon to pass and will show up as soon as the weather clears," he said. A higher number of missing had been reported over the weekend, but some fishermen since returned home.

More than 8,000 travelers were stranded as passenger and cargo ferries were grounded. Classes in towns and cities on the typhoon's path were suspended, including in the capital Manila, and several domestic flights canceled.

Utor was forecast to cut across the main northern island of Luzon on Monday and move into the South China Sea on Tuesday in the direction of Guangdong in China, expected to make landfall there Wednesday.

Utor is the 12th of about 20 storms and typhoons expected to lash the Philippines this year.

Two Filipino girls stay close to their mother to keep dry as they cross a road during rain in Manila, Philippines on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013.

AP

Ex-sex slave and supporters demand justice from Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A tearful Philippine woman recounted Sunday how she was kidnapped by Japanese troops during World War II and coerced into sex slavery, as she and her supporters gathered to demand Japan do more to bring justice to former "comfort women."

Estelita Dy, 83, and her supporters met in Tokyo as part of events by the group to commemorate the day the first victim of Japanese sex slavery came forward on Aug. 14, 1991, and helped lay the groundwork for other victims, including Dy, to come out.

Dy's supporters and rights groups are trying to gain international support to have Aug. 14 become a United Nations-recognized memorial day, as a way to pressure Japan to do more to take responsibility for wartime sex slavery. The day falls just one day before Japan's Aug. 15 end-of-war anniversary.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has backpedaled from Tokyo's past apologies, saying there's no proof Japan's wartime government coerced women into prostitution for the Japanese Imperial Army.

At Sunday's meeting, Dy's supporters, including rights activists, criticized Abe's government for its rejection of a U.N. human rights panel's recommendations earlier this year urging Japan to more seriously take responsibility for sex slavery, better educate the public and take steps to bring justice for the victims. Rechilda Extremadura, a Philippine member of Dy's support group, said Dy and others are the "living witnesses" of sex slavery.

Historians say there were as many as 200,000 sex slaves from across Asia, most of them Koreans.

In a tearful speech, Dy said she was kidnapped by Japanese soldiers when she went to a market to sell vegetables in her hometown on the Philippines' Negros island in the autumn of 1944, when she was 14.

Dy, spotted by the soldiers, who were searching for guerrillas, desperately ran to escape, but fell down and was caught, pushed into a truck and taken to a nearby "comfort station," where she was repeatedly raped for three weeks until American troops rescued her.

She later had a family, but kept her past secret until 1993, when she heard news about sex slavery on the radio.

"At first, I was too embarrassed to reveal my past. But I decided to do so because it would be the only way I could get my lost dignity restored," Dy said. "I renounce war, because its victims are always women and children."

AP

Philippine former sex slave Estelita Dy cries during an event with her supporters in Tokyo, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013.

Philippines: Increase in US troops not permanent

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials said Monday they will make sure that an increased presence of U.S. troops in the country does not become permanent and is meant to help the Philippines modernize its military, which is being challenged by China in territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Philippine and U.S. officials will open talks Wednesday in Manila on an accord to increase rotations of American troops, said chief government negotiator Carlos Sorreta. Hundreds of American troops already have been stationed in the volatile southern Philippines for counter-terrorism training since 2001. The new agreement is expected to increase their numbers and allow them to preposition equipment, officials said.

At a news conference, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin presented the Philippines' negotiators, who will meet with the Americans. They did not mention China by name but have repeatedly stressed in the past that their country needs to upgrade its military to defend its territorial waters in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

"Our region needs to know that we are steadfastly for peace," del Rosario said. "But that we stand ready to tap every resource, to call on every alliance, to do what is necessary, to defend what is ours, to secure our nation and to keep our people safe."

Gazmin said the wider U.S. presence will not be permanent and will comply with the constitution, which bans the basing of foreign troops. It would also mean more resources and training for responding to disasters in a nation often battered by typhoons and earthquakes.

ASIA BRIEFS

Storms, floods kill 22 near Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Heavy rains and overnight hailstorms killed at least 22 people near Afghanistan's capital, a disaster management official said Sunday. Mohammad Daim Kakar, who coordinates disaster management for Kabul province, said the rains began late Saturday and continued into Sunday morning. They caused floods that killed at least 20 people in Kabul's Chakardara district just north of the capital, he said, adding that the victims included seven children. Kakar said another two children died in a flood in the Paghman district west of the capital. Most of the victims were in cars that were swept away and submerged by the flooding, he said.

Philippine police seize vanload of drugs, arrest 5

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine antinarcotics agents seized about 400 kilograms (882 pounds) of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride and arrested five members of a syndicate Sunday in the largest haul of the illegal drug in the country so far this year, officials said. Police Senior Superintendent Bartolome Tobias said five men were arrested while loading the drugs, concealed in two carton boxes and 22 bags, into a van in a residential enclave in Subic town in Zambales province, northwest of Manila. If all the drugs turn out to be real methamphetamine hydrochloride, known locally as shabu, it will have a Manila street value of about 2 billion pesos ($46 million), according to police.

NATO says 3 service members killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO said three of its service members were killed Sunday in eastern Afghanistan but provided no further details. The statement did not provide a nationality nor details of the type of attack that killed the three. Troops from various nations serve in eastern Afghanistan. The deaths bring to 103 the number of foreign troops killed so far this year. Of those, 78 were from the United States. Foreign combat troops are due to leave Afghanistan at the end of 2014.

Toxic liquor kills 8 in southern Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say at least eight people in the port city of Karachi have died after consuming homemade liquor. Police officer Mohammad Sarwar said Sunday that 14 people from Christian-dominated slums in the city, Pakistan's largest, were hospitalized after drinking toxic liquor late Saturday night. He said eight died and six others are being treated. Sarwar said police have arrested two people for allegedly selling the toxic liquor and looking for those who distilled it illegally. He said the two suspects and all the victims were Christians.

World

Egypt police say they will besiege sit-in sites

CAIRO (AP)—Supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi fortified their two Cairo sit-in sites as Egyptian security officials said their forces will move against the entrenched protest camps within 24 hours—perhaps as early as daybreak Monday.

At the main sit-in, vendors said they have sold hundreds of gas masks, goggles and gloves to protesters readying for police tear gas. Three waist-high barriers of concrete and wood have been built against armored vehicles.

The Arab world's most populous country, where more than 250 people have been killed in clashes since Morsi was toppled July 3, braced for more violence as the four-day Muslim Eid celebrations wrapped up Sunday to end the holy month of Ramadan.

The security officials said they would set up cordons around the protest sites to bar anyone from entering, and one of the officials said that could begin as soon as sunrise.

The Interior Ministry has said it would take gradual measures, issuing warnings in recent weeks and saying it would use water cannons and tear gas to minimize casualties.

Interior Ministry officials, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss details of the security plans, said they are prepared for clashes that might be set off by the cordons. The officials said police are working with the Health Ministry to ensure ambulances are on hand for the wounded and that armored police vans are nearby to take away those arrested.

A special force within the Interior Ministry's riot police that are trained for crowd dispersal will deal with protesters. In the past, however, Egypt's riot police, many of whom lack the training to deal with unarmed civilians, resorted to using lethal force.

There was no immediate government confirmation of when forces would move in on the sit-ins.

Egypt's military-backed interim leadership alleges that the sit-ins and protests have frightened residents, sparked deadly violence and disrupted traffic in the capital. Mass rallies two weeks ago called by the military leader, Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, showed that a large segment of Egypt's population backs the armed forces' actions against the Morsi supporters.

The protesters blame the Interior Ministry and "thugs" for past violence, including a July 8 clash between demonstrators and security forces that left more than 80 dead.

Just before the holiday, the government said international efforts failed to reach a diplomatic solution to the standoff with Morsi's supporters, who include members of his Muslim Brotherhood. The Cabinet said the decision to clear the main sit-in site outside the Rabaah al-Adawiya Mosque and a smaller one in nearby Giza near Cairo University was "irreversible."

AP

Supporters of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi walk through makeshift barriers to a sit-in at Nahda Square, where protesters have installed their camp near Cairo University in Giza, southwest of Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013.

Dashed hopes

Many Egyptians had hoped that the leaders who followed President Hosni Mubarak would turn the nation's economy around, but they now think that recently ousted President Mohammed Morsi proved unequal to the task.

Percent of Egyptians who think economic conditions are getting better

Mid-2008 Under Mubarak	21%
Late 2010 Prior to Mubarak's ouster	15
Early 2011 After Mubarak's ouster in January	46
Early 2012 Before Morsi's election in June	39
Mid 2013 Days before Morsi's ouster	12

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Source: Gallup poll of 1,000 to 4,000 Egyptian adults each year, most recently June 12-19, 2013; maximum margin of error: +/-3.3 percentage points
Graphic: Pat Carr

Israel approves nearly 1,200 more settlement homes

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel approved building nearly 1,200 more settlement homes Sunday and agreed to release 26 long-held Palestinian security prisoners—highlighting an apparent settlements-for-prisoners trade-off that got both sides back to peace talks after a five-year freeze.

Yet concerns were mounting, especially among Palestinians, that the price is too steep. Sunday's announcement was Israel's third in a week on promoting Jewish settlements on war-won lands the Palestinians want for a state. It fueled Palestinian fears of a new Israeli construction spurt under the cover of U.S.-sponsored negotiations.

In Israel, the most vocal protests came from relatives of those killed in attacks carried out by Palestinians slated for release.

Bereaved relatives held up large photos of their loved ones during a Supreme Court hearing on an appeal against the upcoming release. "Why are we releasing butchers now? What for?" asked Gila Molcho, whose brother, lawyer Ian Feinberg, was stabbed to death by Palestinians who broke into a European aid office in Gaza City in 1993.

Israelis and Palestinians are to launch talks on Wednesday in Jerusalem, following a preparatory round two weeks ago in Washington. The U.S. envisions an agreement within nine months on the terms of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, including drawing a border, agreeing on security arrangements and deciding the fate of Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinians want a state to include the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. However, they are willing to swap some West Bank land for Israeli territory to allow Israel to annex some of the largest Jewish settlements. In all, Israel has built dozens of settlements since 1967 that are now home to some 560,000 Israelis.

The diplomatic paralysis of the last five years was largely due to disputes over the settlements, deemed illegal by most of the international community.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas long insisted he will only resume talks if Israel freezes construction. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a freeze. Abbas, under pressure from Kerry, eventually dropped it as a condition for talks.

In exchange, Kerry won Israeli agreement that it will release 104 Palestinian prisoners serving long sentences, many for involvement in killing Israelis.

The prisoners are to be freed in four stages during the negotiations, with the first 26 to be released later this week.

Late Sunday, a group of Cabinet ministers selected the names in the first group, to be published early Monday.

Fourteen prisoners will be released to Gaza and 12 to the West Bank, according to a government statement. Eight of the prisoners had three years left to serve and two would have been released in six months or less, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Israeli Housing Minister Uri Ariel announced Sunday that he has given final approval for the construction of 1,187 apartments in settlements. Nearly 800 are in east Jerusalem and the rest in the West Bank.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said the construction was approved in areas that Israel expects to retain in any future peace deal. "There is no way it changes the final map of peace," he said. "It changes nothing."

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen kill 5 Yemeni soldiers at checkpoint

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Suspected al-Qaida gunmen killed five soldiers early Sunday in a southern province of Yemen, an official said, as U.S. embassies across the Muslim and Arab world reopened after terror threat emanating from the region. The U.S. Embassy in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, remained closed Sunday after American officials flew its diplomatic staff out of the country over fears of attack. Eighteen other diplomatic posts Middle East and Africa were to reopen, the State Department said, though the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr saw many businesses closed. An intercepted message between al-Qaida officials about plans for a major terror attack triggered the closures.

Egypt army says 12 militants killed in north Sinai

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—Egyptian helicopters fired on a meeting of suspected militants in the country's Sinai Peninsula, officials said Sunday, killing at least 12 people as authorities stepped up their attacks following an Israeli drone strike in the region. The helicopter attack came as Egyptian and Israeli officials tried to downplay the drone strike Friday in the largely lawless Sinai, fearing popular criticism in a country already roiled by last month's military coup that ousted President Mohammed Morsi. The Egyptian officials told The Associated Press that three helicopters targeted militants in the desert town of Sheik Zuweyid late Saturday. The officials said another dozen were wounded in the attack.

Snowden's father gets visa to visit son in Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden's father has secured documents to visit his son in Russia and plans to discuss how he could fight espionage charges, Lon Snowden and his attorney said Sunday. Neither Lon Snowden nor his attorney Bruce Fein has spoken directly with the former NSA analyst since he fled the United States and received asylum in Russia, they said. But the father and lawyer also said they look forward to meeting with Edward Snowden to consider options for the leaker to return to the United States at some point. "As a father, I want my son to come home if I believe that the justice system ... is going to be applied correctly," Lon Snowden said.

Norway leader goes undercover as taxi driver

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg dressed up as a taxi driver and took passengers around Oslo in an unusual election campaign stunt. A video that his Labor Party posted on social media Sunday shows the candid camera-like moments when the passengers realize the man behind the wheel is Stoltenberg. The prime minister says the point was to find out "what people really think. And if there's one place where people really say what they think about most things it's in the taxi." Labor Party spokeswoman Pia Gulbrandsen said an advertising firm helped set up the stunt. She said most of the passengers hailed Stoltenberg's cab while others "were told that they would be picked up" but not by whom. Norway's parliamentary election is set for Sept. 9.

Focus

Jo Ashline sets a door lock, accompanied by her son, Andrew, 11, who has autism, at their home in Orange, Calif. on Friday, Aug. 9, 2013.

AP

Deaths of wandering autistic children prompt action

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The 3-year-old girl wandered away from her grandmother's home in Wareham, Mass., in mid-April. A frantic search began almost immediately, and within an hour little Alyvia Navarro was found unresponsive in a nearby pond. She was pronounced dead the next day.

A month later, across the continent, a larger search unfolded over three days as hundreds of emergency service personnel and volunteers fanned out around Clearlake, Calif., looking for 9-year-old Mikaela Lynch after she vanished from her backyard. The outcome grimly echoed the Wareham search: A dive team found Mikaela's body in a muddy creek.

The two girls were the first of at least 14 children with autism known to have died this year after slipping away from their caregivers. All but one of them drowned, evidence of a fascination that many autistic children have with water. The body of the latest victim, 11-year-old Anthony Kuznia, was found Thursday in the Red River after a 24-hour search near his home in East Grand Forks, Minn.

The tragic phenomenon goes by various names—wandering, elopement, bolting—and about half of autistic children are prone to it, according to research published last year in the journal Pediatrics.

That would be a huge number. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated last year that 1 in 88 children are affected by autism, and a federal survey this year pegged the prevalence rate at one of every 50 schoolchildren—more than 1 million children in all.

Wandering has led to the deaths of more than 60 children in the past four years, and the fear of it can make daily life a harrowing, never-let-your-guard-down challenge for parents.

"We take steps at home—locks on every door, gates, alarms," said writer Jo Ashline of Orange, Calif., whose 11-year-old son has autism. "But there's always, in the forefront of our minds, the thought that one tiny mistake could prove fatal."

Groups that advocate for autism-affected families, including the National Autism Association and Autism Speaks, are now making it a priority to increase awareness of wandering—among parents, professionals who deal with autistic children, and first-responder agencies that handle missing-children cases.

The study in Pediatrics found that half of parents with autistic children had never received advice or guidance from a professional on how to cope with wandering.

Among those trying to change that is Sheila Medlam of Colwich, Kan., whose 5-year old son, Mason, drowned in a pond in July 2010 after squirming out of the family home through a window that had been raised about 8 inches because the air conditioner went out.

Medlam was at work; her adult daughter was at home but didn't see Mason's getaway.

"It only takes a second of inattention and they're gone," Medlam said in a telephone interview. "They're fast, they're quiet. They can disappear in an instant."

Medlam now works with autistic children, operates a website that keeps track of wandering-related deaths and lobbies for a national alert system that would improve emergency responses.

On her website, she has written a wrenching account of the day Mason died—blaming herself for leaving the window open and for omitting potentially helpful details when she called 911, and blaming the first responders for lack of knowledge about how to search for autistic children.

"If only I could redo that day and just change one thing. But I can't," Medlam wrote. "All I can do is point out the mistakes I made, the mistakes others made, and the lack of resources that claimed my child's life and ripped him from my arms forever."

Boys and girls with autism aren't the only children who stray from caregivers, of course, but their wanderings pose distinctive challenges.

While autism encompasses a spectrum of disorders, posing a range of developmental challenges, experts say the wanderers are often among the more severely affected. They often have minimal concept of danger, don't readily absorb safety lessons, and have limited ability to communicate with others.

And once on the loose, they often make a beeline for a destination of interest that proves fatal: a busy highway or a body of water. Lori McIlwain, executive director of the National Autism Association, says about 90 percent of the wandering fatalities in recent years have been drownings, and most of the other victims were struck by cars.

McIlwain, who lives in Cary, N.C., says her own son, Connor, wandered away from his school in 2007 and might well have ended up in danger had a concerned motorist not stopped and picked up the boy after getting no response to some questions.

In the ensuing years, McIlwain said, it's been a constant challenge to teach her son how to keep himself safe.

Still, the fear that he'll bolt remains "what we live with—it doesn't go away," she said.

Precautionary measures recommended by experts include locks and alarms on doors and windows, "Stop" signs placed in key locations in the home, and ID bracelets or tracking devices worn by the child.

Other recommendations from the National Autism Association include:

■ enrolling the children in swimming lessons, such as those offered by the YMCA for special-needs pupils.

■ developing a family emergency plan to be used in the event of a wandering incident.

■ informing local emergency services, trusted neighbors and staff at the child's school or day-care center about details of the child's interests and wandering patterns.

Even after taking such steps, many parents nonetheless sleep in their autistic child's room to avert a nighttime getaway. McIlwain knows a mother who takes away her daughter's shoes when they're home as a deterrent.

Lauri Dupree of Lumberton, Miss., says she and her husband, who are raising their 6-year-old grandson, Boo, have resorted to using a harness during outings and even sometimes at home because of his daily attempts to bolt.

"He has always done this since he learned to walk and has come close to losing his life on several occasions," Dupree said.

Jo Ashline describes her home in California as resembling Fort Knox with its array of security measures.

"There's always that state of worry—is he going to get out," Ashline said of her son Andrew. "As he gets older and taller, are we going to be able to outsmart him? It only takes one time for him to outsmart us."

She and her husband—like many other parents in their situation—shy away from travels and vacations that might expose Andrew to new opportunities to get away.

"The world itself became our greatest nemesis," Ashline wrote on her blog. "Places most families treasure such as parks, beaches, backyard swimming pools and campsites became staging grounds for our imaginations' worst nightmares."

Indeed, several of this year's wandering victims were on vacations or family outings—including a camping trip in Ohio and a beach vacation in Florida.

Even festive gatherings at home can be dangerous, according to Bob Lowery, executive director of the missing children division of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

"The backyard barbecue is probably the most unsafe place to be," he said. "Everyone assumes someone else is watching that child, and they slip away unnoticed."

To avoid that outcome, he said, some parents develop elaborate hand-off systems to try to ensure an adult always has their eyes on the child.

Over the past few years, Lowery's organization has intensified efforts to increase awareness of the wandering phenomenon and improve the way emergency services and search-and-rescue teams respond.

For example, the people who field 911 calls are being encouraged to obtain specific information from the caller such as whether the child is attracted to water, so that searchers can immediately deploy to local ponds or rivers.

"We know that if there's a tragedy with a child with autism, it probably will occur very quickly," Lowery said. "They have a tendency to head straight to water if that's what they want—you need every able-bodied person available to get to water as soon as possible to head them off."

Lowery and his colleagues, as well as many advocates for autism-affected families, have been exploring ways of developing a national alert system tailored to deal with wandering incidents. He said the existing Amber Alert system is not an option—it's limited to cases where a child is believed to have been abducted by someone who poses a danger to them.

One option being looked at is Project Lifesaver, launched in 1998 to help search-and-rescue teams find missing people with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, autism and Down syndrome. Funding is an issue, however: For the program to function, the people at risk of wandering must wear transmitter bracelets and emergency services must have appropriate tracking equipment.

The driving force behind the recently published research on wandering was the Interactive Autism Network, a program headed by Dr. Paul Law at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore.

Law says he is encouraged that people in the autism community and beyond are now talking about the phenomenon.

"Up `til now it's been a silent problem," he said. "Everyone was expected to deal with it on their own. They didn't talk to their doctor; parent groups didn't talk about it."

He said parents coping with the challenges of a wandering child deserved public understanding and support.

For many parents, there's damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't aspect to the nonstop need for vigilance.

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

MCT

The 2014 Jaguar F-Type is considered a successor to the brand's iconic E-Type sports car.

Jaguar F-Type is hardly an exercise in nostalgia

Following in the footsteps of a famous parent is difficult; just ask Jakob Dylan, Rufus Wainwright or George W. Bush. The 2014 Jaguar F-Type, which hit showrooms in June, faces the same challenge.

Its forebear, the 1961 Jaguar E-Type, was heralded as a work of art from its introduction. Created before the advent of government regulation, the E-Type was so unlike anything else that had come before or since, it quickly became iconic, a lifestyle prop to swinging London, the British Invasion and Carnaby Street.

So what do you do for an encore? How do you follow something that's legendary from its inception? Such brilliance rarely happens twice.

Consider what the F-Type faces. It must meet government mandates across multiple continents. At the same time, it must satisfy the Jaguar loyalists who have been clamoring for this car since the E-Type staggered offstage in 1974, a victim of safety regulations, notorious British build quality, a V-12 engine with cooling problems, and an ill-advised redesign that left it looking like the automotive equivalent of Elvis Presley circa 1977—bloated, but beloved.

Yes, the F-Type is a more rational creature than its parent. How could it be anything else?

And yet the F-Type avoids the pitfalls of other automotive sequels. There's no slavish adherence to arcane styling decisions made decades before. This is a modern sports car. More importantly, it's a modern Jaguar sports car, with two seats, rear-wheel drive and it's available in three flavors.

The base F-Type, base price $69,000, is fitted with a 3.0-liter supercharged V-6 that develops 340 horsepower and reaches 60 mph in 5.1 seconds. If that's not fast enough, you'll be happy to learn that the higher-priced F-Types deliver more performance, not extra luxury. So stepping up to F-Type S, priced at $81,000, nets another 40 horsepower from the same engine and reduces 0-60 mph time to 4.8 seconds. At the top of the food chain sits the F-Type S V-8, with a base price of $92,000. This is the feral cat of the family, with 495 horsepower and 20-inch wheels, able to reach 60 mph in just 4.2 seconds.

Meow.

The F-Type S V-8 I drove was ridiculously fun, delivering abundant power with a delightfully raspy, ferocious exhaust snarl accentuated by backfiring pops loud enough to disturb the neighbors and make dogs bark. And you can make it louder by hitting the active exhaust button, which opens up the exhaust baffles. It's part of the $2,950 performance package. If you opt for the V-8, you want this. Trust me.

The package also includes firm sculpted performance seats with adjustable side bolsters, a flat-bottomed steering wheel, red brake calipers and Configurable Dynamic Mode, which allows you to customize the response of the throttle, steering, suspension and transmission.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Jaguar F-Type:

- Engine: Supercharged DOHC 5.0-liter V-8
- Wheelbase: 103.2 inches
- Length: 176 inches
- Weight: 3,671 pounds
- Cargo space: 7 cubic feet
- EPA rating (city/highway): 16/23 mpg
- Fuel type: Premium
- Base price, base model: $69,000
- Base price, test model: $92,000
- As tested, including destination charge: $103,120

As the V-8's power pours out, the tires grab madly at the pavement, wailing their sweet melody as the back end twitches wildly, allowing just enough tail dancing to be mischievously fun. The scenery blurs as speed builds and the exhaust unleashes its unearthly howl. The eight-speed transmission snaps off the shifts so quickly you may not miss a manual transmission.

There's no sensory deprivation in this car. The hydraulic-assisted power steering is perfectly tuned, nicely weighted and provides the right amount of feedback. Handling response is tight and quick; there's no noticeable body roll in corners. Grip is tenacious; maintaining a line through corners is easy once you rotate the tail to where you want it.

The base F-Type's firm ride tells you that it's a performance car; yet it still has enough absorbency in the suspension to be comfortable, although it can still pogo over closely spaced bumps.

By contrast, the F-Type S, with its V-6 engine, doesn't have the V-8's deep well of torque. There's plenty of power, but you must build the revs and speed first. Steering and handling are a bit more buttoned down, as is the exhaust note, which trades the V-8's magnificently evil caterwaul for a classic European sports car sound.

It's worth driving the V-6 before the V-8 to see which personality suits you.

Regardless of model, the F-Type's performance is remarkable; it's a true sports car.

It's a feeling reinforced by the interior, which is sporty and luxurious without feeling opulent. Designers decorated this cabin masterfully, keeping it simple and functional, while adding dramatic touches, such as the air vents, which rise out of the dash when the car starts.

The fully automatic roof folds in a mere 12 seconds. Once down, wind management is remarkably good. Airflow is not intrusive; it's just enough to make driving delightful.

Put the roof up and you'll find that the windows do not go up after the roof does, so you must raise them separately. However, the top is very well-insulated. So once it's in place, you won't hear any wind noise, although you will hear the exhaust note more clearly as well as road and tire noise.

Storage space is minimal; there's no room behind the seats and the oddly shaped trunk holds just 7 cubic feet.

Remember, this is a sports car. And it's unique.

It doesn't feel like an Audi, Porsche, BMW, Mercedes-Benz or, for that matter, an E-Type. That car might have influenced the F-Type, but they have their own personalities.

The 2014 Jaguar F-Type is an adult toy, seductively evil enough to be sold in a plain brown wrapper and placed high on a shelf behind the counter.

Thankfully, it's much easier to buy than that.

Why does 1997 Mazda shift so hard in lower gears?

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: I have a 1997 Mazda B4000 with the 4.0-liter V6 engine and 5R55E 5-speed electronic transmission. It shifts hard in the lower gears only. I have replaced the valve body separator plate and gaskets and the blow-off solenoid valve. It now shifts better in the higher gears but still shifts hard in the lower gears. It gets worse as the transmission gets hotter. I have installed a cooler and have tried Sea-Foam transmission additive with no significant improvement.

Answer: The Mazda transmission service literature in my ALLDATA database points to several possible causes for harsh shifts, including high idle speed, low fluid level, throttle position sensor (TPS) malfunction, worn transmission oil pump, worn transmission components like the reverse and high clutch, and/or intermediate band and control valve body malfunction.

The idle speed and TPS accuracy are the easiest to check first, so start there. If you don't find any fault codes or electronic issues, the problem might be in the transmission's internals. If it is, I think you've done everything reasonable and would suggest living with the issue by "breathing" the throttle back just a bit at each anticipated upshift. You might also try manually upshifting the lower gears at low engine rpm to encourage earlier and hopefully softer shifts.

I don't think major transmission work is warranted until there's a more significant symptom.

Q: I have a 2009 Ford Ranger with the 4-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, two-wheel drive and no A/C. When I park in the garage and turn it off, for about a minute I hear a sound like an owl hoot coming from under the vehicle. It is intermittent and sometimes seems to be associated with my movements as I get out of the vehicle. Any thoughts?

A: No A/C? A modern vehicle without air conditioning is a real rarity—unless of course it has failed! On a used car lot it would be a "lot queen"—difficult to sell.

The "hoot" sound is likely vacuum bleeding down from something. Primary suspects are the vacuum brake booster and check valve, the HVAC vacuum system. Less likely are emissions-related vacuum components including the EGR vacuum regulator solenoid, vacuum vent valve and manifold pressure/vacuum sensor.

You might be able to pinpoint the source yourself with these two simple tests. After shutting down the engine, wait for the noise to stop, then apply the brake pedal. There should be a "reserve" of vacuum in the brake booster to give you several power-assisted brake applications before the vacuum is "used up" and the pedal gets very hard. If there is no power assist on your first application after the noise has stopped, the leak is likely in the brake booster or check valve. This conceivably could cause a safety issue with a lack of power assist under certain driving situations.

Try moving the HVAC controls from floor to dash after shutting the engine off while the sound is happening. Does this change the sound? If so, the HVAC vacuum reservoir or one of the vacuum motors or controls might be leaking. This is not a safety issue.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Lea Michele dedicates Teen Choice Award to Monteith

By ALICIA RANCILIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
Actress Lea Michele speaks on stage at the Teen Choice Awards at the Gibson Amphitheater on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Lea Michele made her first public appearance following the death of her co-star and real-life boyfriend Cory Monteith at Sunday's Teen Choice Awards.

Monteith, who co-hosted the Teen Choice Awards in 2010, was found dead July 13 in Vancouver, British Columbia. An autopsy revealed the 31-year-old actor died of an overdose of heroin and alcohol.

He and Michele played an on-again, off-again couple in the popular Fox series "Glee" and dated off-screen for about a year.

Michele won Choice TV Actress in a comedy for her role on "Glee" and took the stage to tearfully address the audience while wearing a necklace that said "Cory."

"I just wanted to be here today to personally thank all of you and tell everyone out there how much all of your love and support has meant to me over these very difficult past few weeks," she said.

She dedicated the award to Monteith saying, "For all of you out there who loved and admired Cory as much as I did, I promise that with your love we're gonna get through this together. He was very special to me and also to the world."

She went on to say that "We were very lucky to witness his incredible talent, his handsome smile and his beautiful, beautiful heart so whether you know him personally or just as (his 'Glee' character) Finn Hudson, Cory reached out and he became a part of all of our hearts."

"Glee" also won Choice TV Comedy and cast member Amber Reilly said, "Although we lost someone that we really love and that you guys love too we are very fortunate to come back to a show where we feel the love of family and Cory was like a brother to us."

On the teal carpet prior to the show, another "Glee" star Naya Rivera, said it was therapeutic for the show's cast to be together since Monteith's death.

"It's really good for us to be able to be all together and be in the same room and celebrate people loving what we do."

There were also lighthearted, silly moments during the show, ripe for the screaming teens in the audience.

One Direction kicked off the night with their new song "Best Song Ever" while later in the show hosts Darren Criss and Lucy Hale got Harry Styles to twerk as the audience went wild.

Some of the show's celebrity presenters tried to use the opportunity as teaching moments for the younger audience.

"Tonight means your vote matters," said "Scandal" star Kerry Washington with "The Vampire Diaries" actor Ian Somerhalder, of the more than 150 million votes cast, setting a new record for the show.

Ashton Kutcher received the Ultimate Choice Award and after joking, "Let's be brutally honest. This is the old guy award," said he wanted to impart some life-lessons to his younger fans.

"The sexiest thing in the entire world is being really smart and being thoughtful and being generous," he said.

Actress Rebel Wilson used her time on stage winning the Choice Movie Actress Comedy award for "Pitch Perfect" to get vulgar. She made an off-color joke about One Direction's band name that was muted out by producers.

This year's telecast was from the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, California.

WINNERS' LIST

2013 Teen Choice Awards winners

MOVIES
Choice Movie: Comedy
"Pitch Perfect"
Choice Movie Actor: Comedy
Skylar Astin, "Pitch Perfect"
Choice Movie Actress: Comedy
Rebel Wilson, "Pitch Perfect"
Choice Movie: Romance
"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2"
Choice Movie Actor: Romance
Robert Pattinson, "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2"
Choice Movie Actress: Romance
Kristen Stewart, "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2"
Choice Movie Villain
Adam DeVine, "Pitch Perfect"
Choice Movie Scene Stealer
Kellan Lutz, "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2"
Choice Movie Breakout Star
Nicholas Hoult, "Warm Bodies"

TELEVISION
Choice TV Show: Drama
"Pretty Little Liars"
Choice TV Actor: Drama
Ian Harding, "Pretty Little Liars"
Choice TV Actress: Drama
Troian Bellisario, "Pretty Little Liars"
Choice TV Show: Fantasy/Sci-Fi
"The Vampire Diaries"
Choice TV Actor: Fantasy/Sci-Fi
Ian Somerhalder, "The Vampire Diaries"
Choice TV Actress: Fantasy/Sci-Fi
Nina Dobrev, "The Vampire Diaries"
Choice TV Show: Action
"NCIS: Los Angeles"
Choice TV Actor: Action
LL Cool J, "NCIS: Los Angeles"
Choice TV Actress: Action
Lucy Liu, "Elementary"
Choice TV Show: Comedy
GLEE
Choice TV Actor: Comedy
Jim Parsons, "The Big Bang Theory"
Choice TV Actress: Comedy
Lea Michele, GLEE
Choice TV: Animated Show
THE SIMPSONS
Choice TV: Reality Competition Show
THE X FACTOR
Choice TV Personality - Male
Simon Cowell, THE X FACTOR
Choice TV Personality - Female
Demi Lovato, THE X FACTOR
Choice TV Female Reality Star
The Kardashians & Jenners, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians"
Choice TV Male Reality Star
Kevin Jonas, "Married to Jonas"
Choice TV Male Scene Stealer
Chord Overstreet, GLEE
Choice TV Female Scene Stealer
Miley Cyrus, "Two and a Half Men"
Choice TV Breakout Star
Blake Jenner, GLEE
Choice TV Breakout Show
"The Fosters"

MUSIC
Choice Male Artist
Justin Bieber
Choice Female Artist
Demi Lovato
Choice Music Group
One Direction
Choice R&B Artist
Bruno Mars
Choice Hip-Hop/Rap Artist
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
Choice Rock Group
Paramore
Choice Electronic Dance Music (EDM) Artist
David Guetta
Choice Male Country Artist
Hunter Hayes
Choice Female Country Artist
Taylor Swift
Choice Country Group
Lady Antebellum
Choice Country Song
"We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," Taylor Swift
Choice Single: Female Artist
"Heart Attack," Demi Lovato
Choice Single: Male Artist
"Beauty And A Beat," Justin Bieber, featuring Nicki Minaj
Choice Single: Group
"Live While We're Young," One Direction
Choice R&B/Hip-Hop Song
"Can't Hold Us," Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, featuring Ray Dalton
Choice Rock Song
"Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
Choice Love Song
"Little Things," One Direction
Choice Break-Up Song
"Come and Get It," Selena Gomez
Choice Music Breakout Artist
Ed Sheeran
Choice Music Breakout Group
Emblem3

FASHION
Choice Female Hottie
Selena Gomez
Choice Male Hottie
Harry Styles
Choice Smile
Harry Styles

SPORTS
Choice Female Athlete
Gabby Douglas
Choice Male Athlete
David Beckham

OTHER
Choice Comedian
Ellen DeGeneres
Choice Web Star
Cimorelli
Choice Social Network
Twitter
Candie's Choice Style Icon
Demi Lovato
Choice Twitter Personality
Justin Bieber

World's first pop-art satellite headed to space

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If aliens ever target Earth, Jon Gibson and Amanda White are counting on them having an appreciation for pop art and a sense of humor.

The duo created an elaborate, Andy Warhol-like design that has been etched into a satellite's panel, transforming the spacecraft into a replica of an oversized electrical charging device.

"If someone is going to invade our planet, presumably they're going to come in some sort of electronic, electricity-powered ship," Gibson notes whimsically. "Maybe this will make them stop for a moment and say, 'These guys are nice. We're not going to destroy their planet.'"

At the very least, it will give them the opportunity to pause briefly and check out what may be the world's first orbiting work of art.

Of the 1,000 or so functioning satellites that race around Earth every day, there isn't one he knows of that also doubles as art, says veteran satellite builder Craig Clark, who runs the Scotland-based company preparing to launch this one from Kazakhstan on Oct. 29.

"No one else is crazy enough," the CEO of Clyde Space Ltd. said during a recent phone interview from his office in Glasgow.

In building the small satellite that will monitor atmospheric conditions and send back photos and other information from 373 miles (600 kilometers) above Earth, he turned to Gibson and White and their popular iam8bit gallery in Los Angeles.

Their previous works include such esoteric efforts as overseeing a performance-art, paint-by-numbers project in 2010 that had 20,000 people affixing 2-inch-by-2-inch (5-centimeter-by-5-centimeter) pixels to a wall to create a splashy, colorful mural for a conference of video game developers. A film of their efforts now resides in an art museum in Denver.

AP
In this undated artwork by iam8bit, Inc., shows a rendition of the world's first orbiting work of art etched into the side of a satellite that a British company is scheduled to send into orbit on Oct. 29 aboard a Soyuz rocket to be launched from Kazakhstan.

"Hopefully, by doing some kind of quirky things like this we'll get some kids interested in space. Rather than going on to doing war, they can do something that helps change the world and makes it a better place," said Clark, who received a Member of the British Empire honor for his work this year from Queen Elizabeth II.

After some brainstorming, Gibson and White decided they wanted to do something directly related to space travel.

Using Computer Generated Imagery to make the satellite look like an electrical charger circling Earth turned out to be pretty easy. Putting such a design on a 2-pound (900-gram), shoebox-sized gizmo filled with wires, antennas, sensors, solar panels and other sensitive equipment proved far more challenging.

First, something that would stand up to the wear and tear of being fired into space, then orbiting the Earth at 17,000 mph (27,360 kph) for 25 years had to be used. And it couldn't be paint, either, which would deteriorate over time and give off gas that could fog the satellite's camera.

So the images of computer buttons and a USB port, along with the words, "Greetings Beleaguered Space Traveler. Welcome to the Universe's First Celestial Charging Station," had to be etched right onto the satellite's side.

That limited the use of color to the orange, black and white that the satellite's panels really look like.

Still, Gibson and White managed to come up with a splashy, colorful and surprisingly realistic looking charger; one with white buttons and a USB port contained on a bright, meticulously detailed orange background.

Unfortunately it's unlikely anybody on Earth will ever see the work once it enters orbit.

It's etched onto the side of the satellite that will be pointing heavenward, Clark said, and even if it wasn't, tracking something the size of a loaf of bread at that speed would be no easy task.

"But we'll take plenty of pictures before we launch it," he said with a laugh.

Whether the result will be absolutely the world's first orbiting space work is open to some debate.

Harvard astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell notes that American Alan Bean, the fourth person to walk on the moon, is an accomplished painter. So is Russian Alexey Leonov, the first person to walk in space. Either might have doodled while they were up there.

He also noted that a South Korean artist's home-built satellite was launched in February. There was no artful design attached to it, but it did contain lights that were supposed to illuminate in a colorful, artful pattern.

Unfortunately, from what space watchers can see, those lights don't appear to have ever come on since it left Earth.

Trial gives behind-the-scenes of Jackson shows

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly four years ago, audiences got their last look at Michael Jackson in the top-grossing concert film of all time, "This Is It." Tens of millions worldwide saw a seemingly healthy and confident performer sing and glide across a rehearsal stage as he prepared for his ill-fated comeback tour.

Now, those same sessions are being replayed for a new audience: jurors in a case filed by Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, claiming concert promoter AEG Live should be held liable for his untimely death in June 2009.

Through testimony and evidence, the panel has seen a very different picture of Jackson—one framed by descriptions such as "skeletal," "lost," absent from rehearsals and unable to perform songs that made him a superstar.

In a darkened courtroom, and in stark contrast, the jurors have also seen clips of the concert film—visibly captivated by Jackson's smooth moves and easy vocals as he prepared for his "This Is It" tour in yet another indicator of the enduring allure of the so-called "King of Pop."

AEG Live's lawyers have used the film to point to the flashes of brilliance in Jackson's final rehearsals as proof that its executives could not have known the singer would soon die.

But Katherine Jackson's attorneys have played the footage juxtaposed to video of her son spinning and Moonwalking in younger years in an attempt to show that his skills were diminished and the film was selectively edited.

Once again last week, jurors were reminded of many of the dire descriptions of Jackson's deteriorating health in the final weeks. An attorney for the singer's mother presented snippets of testimony from five of Jacksons' collaborators expressing concerns about his health, including one who openly worried that he might die. Some of the statements were also sent in emails to AEG Live executives in 2009.

AP

This Oct. 27, 2009 file photo shows Jermaine Jackson, Director/Producer Kenny Ortega, Tito Jackson, Jackie Jackson and Marlon Jackson at Columbia Pictures' Premiere of Michael Jackson's "This Is It" at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live, in Los Angeles.

"If we didn't have these emails, we know what they'd be saying," Katherine Jackson's attorney Brian Panish said. "You can't come in and change those now."

"It is only the fair and accurate representation of what he was actually doing to prepare," AEG Live defense attorney Marvin S. Putnam said of the film. "What we can't know and we can't provide any picture of is what Mr. Jackson was doing when he was not preparing for `This Is It' at rehearsal."

"It wasn't meant to be a day-by-day chronicle of Mr. Jackson's life," Putnam said, adding that "it doesn't show someone who's deteriorating."

The footage that became the "This Is It" movie was never intended for the big screen and by its nature is a bit rough. Jackson's outfits often change several times in one song because it is compiled from multiple rehearsals. There are few time elements in the movie, so rehearsals shot on the last night the singer was alive are shown alongside earlier rehearsals.

For instance, Jackson's final rehearsed song was his environmental anthem, "Earth Song," which appears an hour and 20 minutes into the movie. The next song, "Billie Jean" was performed weeks earlier, according to testimony in the trial.

"This Is It" was released in October 2009 for a two-week theatrical engagement, earning more than $260 million worldwide—far more than concert films by Justin Bieber, Katy Perry or Madonna.

In the film, Jackson shows off many of the crisp dance moves that made him a superstar, but in the courtroom, his collaborators have detailed his missed rehearsals, his difficulty performing some of his signature moves and occasional signs that Jackson was under the influence of medications.

Among their observations not reflected in the film:

■ Choreographer Travis Payne went to Jackson's home almost daily for rehearsals, but acknowledged that he couldn't say how many times the singer often skipped the one-on-one sessions. Payne testified that Jackson was struggling to prepare for the show and had asked to use a teleprompter to help him remember lyrics to some of his songs.

■ Nor did Jackson show up for rehearsals with the band and backup dancers. Director Kenny Ortega told jurors that Jackson missed numerous rehearsals in mid-June. When he arrived for a rehearsal session on June 19, 2009, Jackson was shivering, incoherent and unable to rehearse. Ortega massaged Jackson's feet and got him food, later describing the singer in an email to AEG Live CEO Randy Phillips as "like a lost boy."

■ Production manager John "Bugzee" Houghdahl wrote Phillips on June 19, "I have watched him deteriorate in front of my eyes over the last 8 weeks."

■ Emails sent by Phillips have led Panish to suggest that the footage shown in "This Is It" was selectively edited and that any clips showing Jackson was sick were in AEG's control. After the singer's death, Phillips sent an email to another AEG executive, Paul Gongaware, telling him, "Make sure we take out the shots of MJ in that red leather jacket at the soundstage where the mini-movies were being filmed. He looks way too (thin) and skeletal."

Gongaware denied to jurors that any footage was taken out at Phillips' request, and AEG Live's attorneys showed a clip from the film in which Jackson is wearing his infamous red leather jacket while watching the filming of a 3D mini-movie that would introduce "Thriller" during the concerts.

Lawyers for Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, thought footage that became the "This Is It" film might help their defense of the doctor on an involuntary manslaughter charge, but their review of more than 100 hours of unseen footage didn't yield anything useful to their case.

"Even on his bad days, he's good," Murray's defense lawyer J. Michael Flanagan said at the time.

The testimony and evidence from the civil trial are unlikely to impact Jackson's legacy, and may even spur some renewed interest in "This Is It," said Robert Marich, the author of the book "Marketing to Moviegoers."

"This makes him look more tragic and enigmatic," he said.

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ELYSIUM [CC] (R) Tue. - Wed.(435 PM) 730 PM
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG) Tue. - Wed.(425 PM)
PLANES [CC] (PG) Tue. - Wed.710 PM
PLANES 3D [CC] (PG) Tue. - Wed.(445 PM)
WE'RE THE MILLERS [CC] (R) Tue. - Wed.(405 PM) 705 PM
2 GUNS [CC] (R) Tue. - Wed.(450 PM) 745 PM
SMURFS 2 [CC] (PG) Tue. - Wed.700 PM
SMURFS 2 3D [CC] (PG) Tue. - Wed.(430 PM)
THE WOLVERINE [CC] (PG-13) Tue. - Wed.715 PM
THE WOLVERINE 3D [CC] (PG-13) Tue. - Wed.(415 PM)
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'Elysium' tops box office with $30.5 million

NEW YORK (AP)—The dystopian science fiction thriller "Elysium" topped the weekend box office with $30.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, enough to beat three newcomers, including the Jennifer Aniston comedy "We're the Millers."

Sony's "Elysium," directed by Neill Blomkamp and starring Matt Damon, opened in line with expectations, but still debuted somewhat modestly for a $115 million action film. It couldn't match Blomkamp's previous film, the $30 million "District 9," which opened with $37.4 million in August 2009.

But "Elysium" was able to come out on top in a crowded weekend, with three other new wide releases: the R-rated Warner Bros. comedy "We're the Millers," starring Jason Sudeikis and Aniston ($26.6 million over the weekend, a strong $38 million since opening Tuesday night); Disney's "Cars" spinoff "Planes" ($22.5 million) and Fox's fantasy sequel "Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters" ($14.6 million over the weekend, $23.5 million since Wednesday).

"District 9" was something of a phenomenon: a relatively low-budget science-fiction film from a first-time, South African director that made over $210 million worldwide and landed four Academy Awards nominations, including best picture. Like "District 9," "Elysium" is rife with allegory, a futuristic tale heavy with contemporary themes of wealth discrepancy, health care and immigration. But it was also made with more than three times the budget of "District 9" and added stars Damon and Jodie Foster.

AP

This film publicity file image released by TriStar, Columbia Pictures-Sony shows Matt Damon, right, in a scene from "Elysium."

Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony said the studio was proud to release an ambitious film like "Elysium" and said that it would be "very profitable" for Sony. The film launched internationally in a handful of markets, including Russia, taking in $10.9 million overseas. With the added star power of Damon and Foster, "Elysium" should be a bigger draw than "District 9" was abroad.

"International is going to be the big, big win on this film for us," said Bruer.

The weekend was enough to push the box office just past the pace of last year, which means that despite several spectacular flops this summer, Hollywood's 2013 is currently equal to its 2012. The year-to-date gross of $7 billion is even with last year, although attendance is down 2.9 percent.

"Yes, there's been some high-profile failures," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox. "But the summer's been fantastic despite the gloom and doom some in the media have portrayed."

The market was crowded with family films, including new releases "Percy Jackson" and "Planes," as well as holdovers like Sony's "Smurfs 2" ($9.5 million in its second week) and Fox's "Turbo" ($2.3 million in its fourth week). With the box office led by two R-rated films, it made for a diverse weekend of movie-going.

"It used to be called the dog days of August—and you still get some junk thrown in to August," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "But it can also be the land of opportunity for films that aren't cookie-cutter for audiences that are burned out by blockbusters."

1. **"Elysium,"** $30.5 million ($10.9 million international).
2. **"We're the Millers,"** $26.6 million.
3. **"Planes,"** $22.5 million.
4. **"Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters,"** $14.6 million ($9.8 million international).
5. **"2 Guns,"** $11.1 million.
6. **"Smurfs 2,"** $9.5 million ($34.6 million international).
7. **"The Wolverine,"** $8 million ($18 million international).
8. **"The Conjuring,"** $6.7 million ($9.9 million international).
9. **"Despicable Me 2,"** $5.7 million ($12.2 million international).
10. **"Grown Ups 2,"** $3.7 million ($6.6 million international).

Jennifer Lawrence: 'I always knew I'd be famous'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lawrence says growing up in Kentucky she always knew she would be famous.

The Best Actress Oscar-winner for "Silver Linings Playbook" tells the September issue of Vogue magazine that she used to "lie in bed and wonder" about what would make her well-known.

She says, "It wasn't a vision. But as it's kind of happening, you have this buried understanding: Of course."

The 22-year-old also confesses her childhood was "unhappy" because she was "anxious." Her parents even sent her to a therapist.

It was when she got cast in 2007 in the TV series "The Bill Engvall Show" that her mother realized she no longer needed counseling because when she was acting it made her happy.

Vogue's September issue goes on sale Aug. 20.

AP

This magazine cover image shot by Mario Testino and released by Vogue shows actress Jennifer Lawrence on the cover of the September 2013 issue. The issue will hit newsstands on Aug. 20.

Joy Behar leaves 'The View'

That's a wrap for Joy Behar, who left ABC's daytime gabfest "The View" on Friday after 16 years.

The hourlong farewell included celebrity appearances—Regis Philbin, Meredith Vieira, Joan Rivers, Alan Alda and others—as well as a tribute from co-host Barbara Walters, who discovered Behar doing standup at a birthday tribute for Milton Berle.

"I have to thank the most important people: my hair and makeup people," Behar joked.

"I'll be sexting every one of you in the fall," she told the show's crew.

Behar, who said she doesn't like sentimentality, nevertheless reciprocated after Walters tearfully said she loved her.

"The View" is in a period of transition, with Behar and Elisabeth Hasselbeck both leaving and Walters soon retiring. The hiring of Jenny McCarthy as a co-host earlier this summer provoked backlash due to her controversial views that vaccinations can cause autism. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

NH lifetime achievement award for Stephen Sondheim

PETERBOROUGH, N.H. (AP)—Broadway composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim is being awarded one of the top honors in the arts world: the Edward MacDowell Medal for lifetime achievement.

The award is being presented Sunday at the MacDowell Colony, the prestigious retreat for artists, writers and composers in Peterborough, N.H. This is the first time the medal has been awarded for achievement in musical theater. Past recipients include Robert Frost and Georgia O'Keefe.

In a statement when the award was announced, Sondheim called the medal a "sort of homecoming," noting that as a child he used to play compositions by Edward MacDowell, for whom the prize is named.

Sondheim has won more Tony Awards than any other composer. His hit musicals include "Follies," "A Little Night Music" and "Sweeney Todd."

AP

In a Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010 file photo, Stephen Sondheim listens to Nathan Lane before the lighting of the marquee of the Stephen Sondheim Theatre on West 43rd St. in Times Square, in New York.

Alec Baldwin may be getting a weekly talk show on MSNBC

By SCOTT COLLINS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—MSNBC's lineup may be getting some serious firepower: Looks like Alec Baldwin is signing up to host a show on the cable news network.

Baldwin, the 55-year-old former costar of NBC's sitcom "30 Rock," would bring his famously liberal point of view to a show that would air at 10 p.m. ET Fridays, according to the site Mediaite, which broke the story.

The cable news wars are heating up again. News of Baldwin's possible show broke the same day that reports indicated Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly would get the 9 p.m. ET slot currently occupied by Sean Hannity.

A talent representative said a deal is believed to already have been signed, but an MSNBC spokeswoman declined to confirm that or comment on the Mediaite report.

Baldwin would be a choice almost guaranteed to hearten liberals as much as it would irk conservatives. The actor has been an outspoken left-wing advocate for years, making him a favorite of Democratic viewers.

Earlier this year, however, he was attacked for calling a British reporter "a toxic little queen." Many observers, including CNN's openly gay Anderson Cooper, said that a conservative who said the same thing would have been viewed as homophobic, but that Baldwin got a free pass because of his politics.

What's certain is that Baldwin knows how to make news, intentionally or not. In 2007, he made international headlines when he left a voice message berating his then-11-year-old daughter as a "rude, thoughtless little pig." He later apologized.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ex-gay gospel singer doesn't play MLK concert

WASHINGTON (AP)—A gospel singer who says God delivered him from being gay did not perform at a concert at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. The Washington Post reports singer Donnie McClurkin was scheduled to perform Saturday night to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, but several gay rights activists objected ahead of the event. Doxie McCoy, a spokeswoman for Mayor Vincent Gray, says the Grammy-winning singer decided not perform because the purpose of the event was to bring people together. But in a video statement linked to McClurkin's Twitter page, he says he was "asked not to attend" and was uninvited. McClurkin says there should be freedom of speech "as long as it's done in love."

Herzog on tackling texting and driving in new film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In his documentaries, Werner Herzog has examined grizzly bears, plane crash survivors, cave paintings and death row inmates. For his latest project, the 70-year-old filmmaker is exploring the dangers of texting while driving in "From One Second to the Next," a 35-minute short film that recounts how lives have been forever changed. The documentary tells the stories of both victims and perpetrators. It will be available to watch Thursday at ItCanWait.com. The film expands on the 30-second commercials that the director of such movies as "Grizzly Man" and "Aguirre: The Wrath of God" created for the "It Can Wait" campaign, an initiative intended to raise awareness about the issue.

Group aims to save NY home with 'Wizard of Oz' tie

SYRACUSE, New York (AP)—If it weren't for one home in Syracuse, there would be no Wizard of Oz. That's the contention of the Lyman Frank Baum Foundation, named for the central New York native who wrote "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." The book was the basis for the 1939 Judy Garland film. The foundation is holding fundraisers this week in Syracuse to try to save a derelict home where Baum's sister, Harriet Baum Neal, lived in the 1880s. Foundation members tell The Post-Standard of Syracuse that Frank Baum met his future wife, Maud Gage, at the home. The organization says Gage's mother was a prominent supporter of women's rights whose ideas influenced Baum's vision of Oz, where powerful women such as Glinda the Good Witch act for the betterment of society.

Awkward questions about sons' adoption don't deserve answers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two wonderful sons who joined our family through adoption. While we don't broadcast that they are adopted, it sometimes comes up in conversation. When it does, people inevitably ask, "What happened to their 'real' parents?" or, "Why were they given up?"

I know folks are curious, but these comments are hurtful. The details of my sons' lives are private, to be shared as they grow in age-appropriate ways. They know they are adopted, but are too young to know the details surrounding their lives prior to joining our family. I do not want to have an in-depth conversation with every person who asks a nosy question. These questions always seem to come up when the kids are around and I feel unprepared to answer them.

Do you have any suggestions for a witty and confident response that can shut down these questions? I don't want my boys to be ashamed that they were adopted, but I also don't want the details out there for public consumption.

ADOPTED MOM IN INDY

DEAR ADOPTED MOM: That someone would be so insensitive as to pose those questions in front of the children is disconcerting. While I can't think of a "witty" response that would deter the questioner, I can think of one that would be effective. Look the person in the eye, smile and say, "Oh, that's a long story, but look at what beautiful sons I have. I feel truly blessed."

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My parents died when I was a teenager. In the years since I have noticed strange things. While I don't find pennies, I do often see streetlights turn off right before I drive under them. I drive a lot at night and in the early morning because I work graveyard shifts, and it seems to happen almost every day when I go to work or come home.

I guess it could be coincidental. But a friend suggested years ago that it's my parents letting me know they're watching over me. I want to believe, yet I feel skeptical at the same time. Have you ever heard of anything like it?

LIGHTS OUT IN FEDERAL WAY, WASH.

DEAR LIGHTS OUT: The only time I have heard of anything like what you're experiencing has been when I happened to change channels and come upon a television show about the paranormal. More important than what I believe is what you choose to believe. If the reassurance that your parents are watching over you brings you comfort, then I am all for it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: This idea may appeal to the parents of young children: Celebrate "half-birthdays." (The concept is derived from the "Half-Birthday Song" in "Alice in Wonderland.")

A year to a young child is a long time. In addition to recognizing the joy that he/she was born, it's a start to learning the structure of our calendar. It doesn't have to involve a big party or gifts, just a special activity day with a parent. Our family has observed half-birthdays for 45 years and have found it to be a worthwhile tradition.

FUN MOM

DEAR FUN MOM: The title of the song you mentioned is actually "The UNbirthday Song," but I'm in favor of anything that will bring parents and children closer. If the household is headed by a single working parent, then I'll bet a grandparent would be delighted for the chance to celebrate that special occasion.

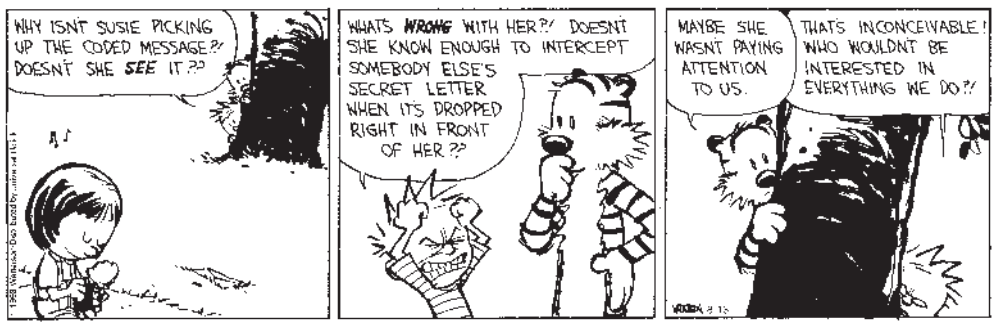
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

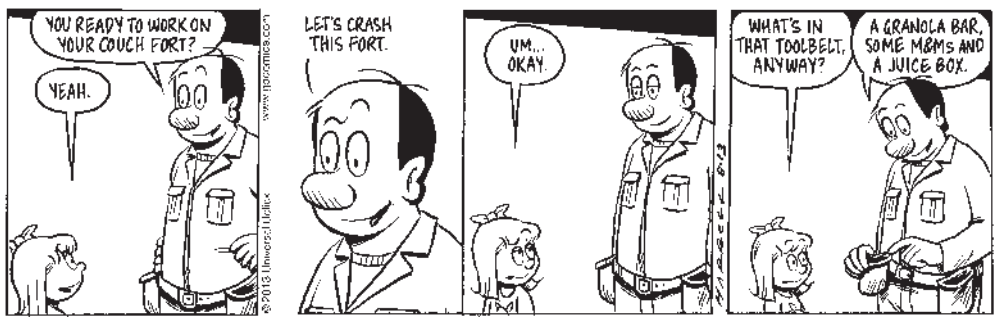

WHY ISN'T SUSIE PICKING UP THE CODED MESSAGE?! DOESN'T SHE SEE IT??
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?! DOESN'T SHE KNOW ENOUGH TO INTERCEPT SOMEBODY ELSE'S SECRET LETTER WHEN IT'S DROPPED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER??
MAYBE SHE WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO US.
THAT'S INCONCEIVABLE! WHO WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING WE DO?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

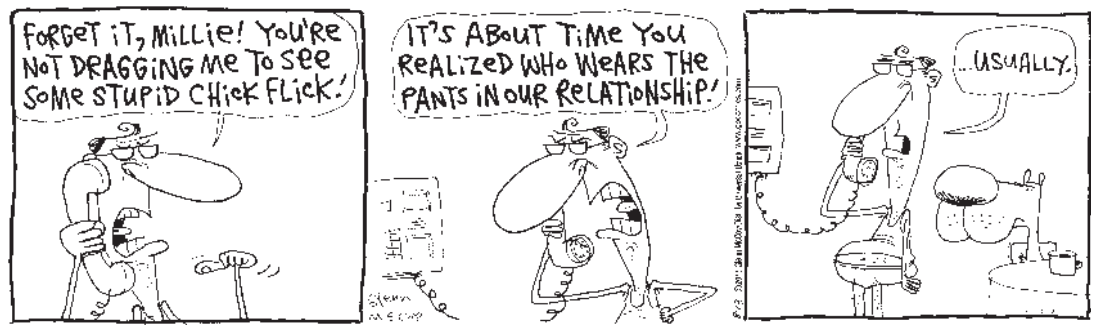
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU READY TO WORK ON YOUR COUCH FORT?
YEAH.
LET'S CRASH THIS FORT.
UM... OKAY.
WHAT'S IN THAT TOOLBELT, ANYWAY?
A GRANOLA BAR, SOME M&Ms AND A JUICE BOX.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


FORGET IT, MILLIE! YOU'RE NOT DRAGGING ME TO SEE SOME STUPID CHICK FLICK!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU REALIZED WHO WEARS THE PANTS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP!
...USUALLY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Calves' mommies
5 Youngster
8 Crazes
12 Opera solo
13 Swelled head
14 Not many
15 Hunting with hawks
17 Stromboli spillage
18 Conclude
19 Churchill gesture
20 Razor sharpener
21 Heavy
22 Fish eggs
23 Gold or iron
26 Blog, e.g.
30 Verbal
31 Candy with special dispensers
32 Tittle
33 Beef cut
35 Alphabetized list
36 Listener
37 Navigation hindrance
38 Delicious
41 Cacophony
42 Japanese pond fish
45 Greatly
46 Character in three Shakespeare plays
48 Long-popular TV clown
49 Books, for short
50 Elevator name
51 Witnesses
52 Blond shade
53 Marquand sleuth

DOWN
1 Eatery
2 Algerian port
3 Untamed
4 Pouch
5 Doctrine
6 Shrek, e.g.
7 Plaything
8 Pausing uncertainly
9 Out there somewhere
10 "Whip It" band
11 Trade
16 Ellipse
20 Old French coin
21 Some doo-wop voices
22 Cartoonist Chast
23 Unruly bunch
24 Blunder
25 Skater Babilonia
26 Lustrous black
27 Affirmative action?
28 Chowed down on
29 Remiss
31 Apiece
34 One of the Round Table knights
35 Charged bits
37 Squalor
38 Bar checks
39 Lotion additive
40 "The Usual Suspects" villain Keyser
41 Raised platform
42 Green Hornet's partner
43 "Think nothing —"
44 "In that case ..."
46 Peninsular st.
47 Male turkey

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	C	C			P	O	T		J	A	M	B
L	O	A	F		O	D	E		I	D	E	A
A	N	N	A		P	O	X		G	O	W	N
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M	A	L	T	E	S	E		S	W	O	R	E
O	R	E	O		K	E	G		P	U	M	A
S	C	A	P	E		R	E	Q	U	E	S	T
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			E	L	M	O		A	Z	T	E	C
T	A	I	C		A	H	A		I	A	V	A
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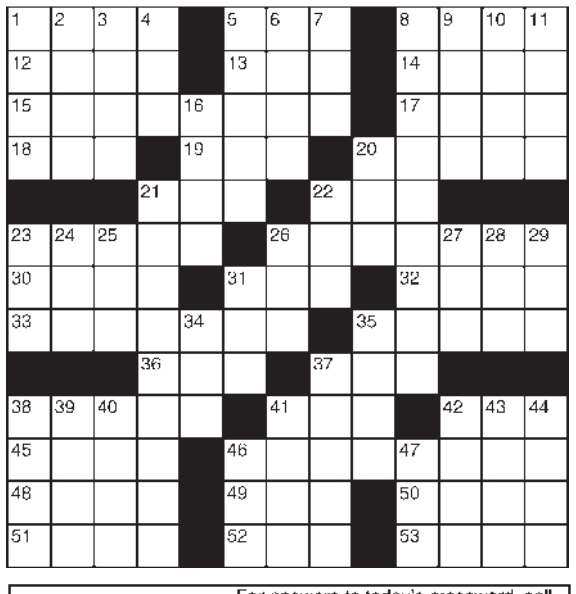
Yesterday's answer 8-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shani Davis, 31; Debi Mazar, 49; John Slattery, 51; Dawnn Lewis, 52.

Happy Birthday: Obstacles will make you stronger and teach you something interesting and valuable. Embrace change and it will make your life easier and your ability to move forward in a new direction powerful and satisfying. Gravitate toward the unusual and back away from anyone or anything that is likely to restrict what you can do or how far you can go. Your numbers are 8, 14, 20, 26, 32, 38, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't jump to conclusions regarding financial, legal, medical or contractual matters. Do your research and find out firsthand what your options are before taking action. Change may be required, but moderation and practicality must be implemented. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Plan a trip to a destination that will enhance a special relationship or that will add to your knowledge or give you the experience you need to improve your current position. A commitment must be honored, or complaints will be made. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't show emotion when dealing with peers. Wait and see what others do and say before you react. Your patience will pay off, allowing you to make a good decision that will encourage advancement. Don't mix business with pleasure. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take a chance on someone or something that intrigues you. What you discover will help pave the road to greater opportunities. What you learn and experience now will change your direction or life philosophy. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen carefully and be prepared to make last-minute changes. Showing your ability to act fast and to accommodate whatever you encounter will make you realize that you are the master of your destiny, allowing you to move forward with confidence. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stop working so hard on behalf of others. You should be promoting and presenting what you do and receiving the rewards you deserve. Share your ideas and put your plans into motion. You will drum up interest and support. Save time for romance. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Back up if someone pushes you in a direction that doesn't feel right. Offer your services to those you know are grateful. A change of plans or company will do you good and help you realize your true potential. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): The more you are willing to do, the more help and praise you will receive. Exploring new places or lifestyles will open a passageway to new beginnings. Love and romance are in the stars. Live, love and laugh. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Look over your personal papers and current financial situation. Take care of any restrictions that may stand between you and your plans. Excess will be the enemy and must be monitored carefully. Less will definitely equate to more. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Share your thoughts, feelings and desires. Love is on the rise, and spending time with someone who shares your interests will lead to promising changes that will bring you greater pleasure. A partnership will encourage personal growth and improved status. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Size up your situation before you make a move. Keep your emotions in check and refuse to be goaded into something that doesn't feel right. Take control and make the changes to your life that will ensure advancement and greater security. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Interacting with people who share your thoughts, interests and intentions will bring about a favorable plan that will help you turn your ideas into something that can lead to greater prosperity. Romance is on the rise. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, loyal and inventive. You have showmanship and discipline.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	7	8		2	6	3	
		8				9		
6								5
	3		6		7		9	
	2		3		4		7	
3								2
		6				7		
	9	2	1		6	8	5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	8	7	9	6	1	2	4
7	1	6	8	4	2	5	3	9
4	9	2	1	3	5	6	7	8
5	8	3	6	2	7	4	9	1
1	4	7	9	5	3	8	6	2
6	2	9	4	1	8	3	5	7
8	3	4	5	7	9	2	1	6
9	6	5	2	8	1	7	4	3
2	7	1	3	6	4	9	8	5

Difficulty Level ★ 8/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

UFOs **Solution: 7 letters**

R	P	M	H	L	P	E	L	S	A	R	E	M	A	C
E	O	E	R	I	F	R	X	A	O	H	E	A	T	Y
F	R	T	Y	F	G	A	O	I	E	L	L	O	O	K
L	T	A	A	E	O	H	B	J	T	R	A	V	I	S
E	H	L	D	R	W	B	S	L	E	O	H	Y	E	K
C	O	L	T	A	Y	I	J	P	E	C	A	L	L	C
T	L	I	S	B	R	A	T	E	E	K	T	S	B	A
I	E	C	O	S	A	D	S	N	C	E	U	E	B	J
V	S	T	H	G	I	L	O	W	E	T	D	I	O	P
E	I	C	G	S	R	G	L	N	O	S	S	R	W	A
G	N	E	C	E	C	D	H	O	A	D	S	O	O	L
L	E	O	W	O	R	I	U	T	O	L	A	E	L	F
I	I	R	N	S	A	O	G	O	I	N	D	H	S	L
D	L	E	I	F	F	V	E	F	L	N	S	T	S	Y
E	A	W	A	L	T	O	N	U	S	C	G	L	O	W

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Yesterday's Answer: Business

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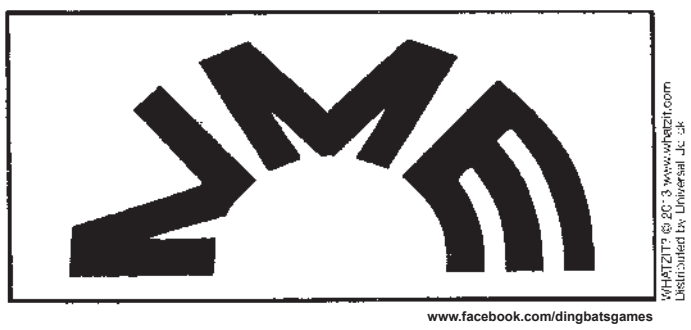

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Dufner beats Furyk at PGA for 1st major title

PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP)—Equipped with a two-shot lead at the turn, still carrying a few scars from his PGA Championship collapse two years ago, Jason Dufner never showed signs of cracking.

No one expected anything else from a player whose popularity comes from his flat-line personality.

He merely waved to the gallery when he shot 63 in the second round to tie a major championship record. He didn't show much of a pulse Sunday as he matched scores with Jim Furyk at every hole on the back nine of Oak Hill. Only after Dufner tapped in for a bogey on the 18th hole to win the PGA Championship did he crack a smile, raise both arms and give a slight pump of the fist, saving all that emotion for a grand occasion.

Major champion.

Dufner can't think of any other athlete who plays with so little emotion.

"But those sports are a little more exciting—big plays in basketball, home runs in baseball, big plays in football. That will get you pumped up," he said. "For me, golf is a little bit more boring. I hit it in the fairway or I didn't. Usually I'm struggling with the putter, so there's not too much to get excited about with that."

His name on the Wanamaker Trophy?

That was worth a smile.

"Nobody can take that away from me," Dufner said after he closed with a 2-under 68 for a two-shot win over Furyk. "It's a great accomplishment for me, and I'm really excited about it."

Dufner wasn't sure he would get another chance after the PGA Championship two years ago in Atlanta, where he blew a four-shot lead with four holes to play and lost in a playoff to Keegan Bradley. But he wasn't about to let this one get away. Dufner won by playing a brand of golf that matches the bland expression on his face.

It wasn't exciting. It didn't need to be.

Dufner finished the front nine with six straight one-putt greens, and then delivered a steady diet of fairways and greens. He putted for birdie on every hole on the back nine until the last hole. He calmly rolled a 10-foot par putt toward the cup and tapped it in.

"There's not much to celebrate from 6 inches or less, but it was nice to have that short of a putt," he said. "It was a perfect ending for me."

The turning point at Oak Hill was the final two holes—on the front nine.

Dufner made a short birdie on the eighth hole to take a one-shot lead, and Furyk made bogey on the ninth hole to fall two shots behind. Furyk, a 54-hole leader for the second time in as many years in a major, couldn't make up any ground with a procession of pars along the back nine. He finally made a 12-foot birdie putt on the 16th, but only after Dufner spun back a wedge to 18 inches for a sure birdie.

Furyk also made bogey on the last two holes, taking two chips to reach the 17th green and coming up short into mangled rough short of the 18th green, where all he could do was hack it onto the green. Furyk closed with a 71 to finish two shots behind.

"I have a lot of respect for him and the way he played today," Furyk said. "I don't know if it makes anything easy, or less easy. But I don't look at it as I lost the golf tournament. I look at it as I got beat by somebody that played better today."

Dufner finished at 10-under 270, four shots better than the lowest score in the five previous majors at Oak Hill. Jack Nicklaus won the 1980 PGA Championship at 274.

Henrik Stenson, trying to become the first Swede to win a men's major title, pulled within two shots on the 13th hole and was poised to make a run until his tee shot settled on a divot hole in the 14th fairway. He chunked that flip wedge into a bunker and made bogey and closed with a 70 to finish alone in third. In his last three tournaments—two majors and a World Golf Championship—Stenson has two runner-ups and a third.

Jonas Blixt, another Swede, also had a 70 and finished fourth. Masters champion Adam Scott never made a serious of move and shot 70 to tie for fifth. Defending champion Rory McIlroy made triple bogey on the fifth hole to lose hope, those he still closed with a 70 and tied for eighth, his first top 10 in a major this year.

Dufner two-putted for bogey on the 18th from about 10 feet and shook hands with Furyk as if he had just completed a business deal. He hugged his wife, Amanda, and gave her a love tap on the tush with the cameras rolling.

Asked if he had ever been nervous, she replied, "If he has been, he's never told me."

That's what gives Dufner is own personality on the PGA Tour. He didn't look any differently on the opening tee shot than when he stood on the 18th hole.

"I would say I was pretty flat-lined for most of the day," he said.

Among the first to greet Dufner was Bradley, who beat him in the PGA playoff at Atlanta and was behind the "Dufnering" craze from earlier this year.

Dufner went to an elementary school in Dallas as part of a charity day as defending champion in the Byron Nelson Classic. A photo showed him slumped against the wall in the classroom next to the children, his eyes glazed over, as the teacher taught them about relaxation and concentration techniques. The pose was mimicked all over the country, giving Dufner some celebrity for his zombie appearance.

Now he's known for something far more important.

Dufner became the sixth player to win a major with a round of 63, joining Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, Raymond Floyd, Nicklaus and Johnny Miller.

He is the third first-time major champion of the year, and the 15th champion in the last 19 majors who had never won the big one. Woods is responsible for the latest trend, mainly because he's not winning them at the rate he once was.

Woods extended his drought to 18 majors without winning, and this time he wasn't even in the hunt. For the second straight round, Woods finished before the leaders even teed off. He closed with a 70 to tie for 40th, 14 shots out of the lead.

"I didn't give myself many looks and certainly didn't hit the ball good enough to be in it," Woods said.

Furyk wasn't about to beat himself up for another major opportunity that got away. He had a share of the lead at the U.S. Open last year until taking bogey on the par-5 16th hole with a poor tee shot. His only regret was not making par on the last two holes—the toughest on the back nine at Oak Hill—to put pressure on Dufner.

Not that anyone would have noticed.

"It probably hasn't hit me yet. I can't believe this is happening to me," Dufner said. "To come back from a couple of years ago in this championship when I lost to Keegan in a playoff, to win feels really, really good."

Jason Dufner holds up the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y.

AP

Kevin Durant returns to Seattle in summer league

SEATTLE (AP)—Kevin Durant hoisted 62 shots and scored 63 points, and played all but 15 seconds in 51 minutes of game time.

All that, and he still had time to pose for pictures and sign autographs when his car was surrounded by fans as he tried to leave.

If there was any questioning if Seattle still loves Durant, it was put to rest Sunday.

"I just want to say I miss you guys," Durant told a crammed small-college gym filled with about 3,000 fans, many in Durant's old Seattle SuperSonics jersey. "Thank you for the warm welcome. I can't wait to come back."

Durant took part in the Jamal Crawford Summer Pro-Am in Seattle on Sunday. It was his first time back in Seattle in a basketball capacity since the SuperSonics left for Oklahoma City in 2008. He was the NBA Rookie of the Year in Seattle in the 2007-08 season and continues to have an affinity for his first professional city.

Durant tried to slip away from the gym quietly, but fans found his SUV and surrounded it nearly an hour after the game ended. Instead of forcing his way through, Durant stopped, signed autographs and posed for pictures from the backseat of his vehicle.

Shortly after his game ended, Durant tweeted, "I love and miss Seattle."

The league organized by Crawford has seen its share of special guest appearances in the past and there are even rumors of a Blake Griffin appearance in the coming weeks. But nothing might top Durant, considering the circumstances of how he left and how Seattle remains important to him. Durant has been seen before in hats representing Seattle, including a retro SuperSonics hat during this year's NBA playoffs.

Durant reached out to Crawford to try and figure out a way to make an appearance. A summer of waiting finally came to fruition Sunday as 3,000 fans packed a small-college gym to see Durant, Crawford and other NBA players put on a show.

"He reached out to me to come perform before in front of you guys," Crawford told the crowd at Seattle Pacific University. "He loves Seattle. He took his own jet. He spent a lot of money to come up here and perform in front of you guys."

It clearly wasn't one of Durant's better shooting performances. He made just 26 of 62 shots—including many dunks—but was only 8 of 32 from 3-point range. He missed a baseline jumper at the end of regulation that forced overtime where Crawford's team pulled out a 147-141 win. Crawford finished with 46 points.

But the final score or Durant's stat line didn't matter in the bigger picture of a city still trying to reclaim its NBA identity. Fans were

"It's huge. Seattle feels like he was stolen from us. He's arguably the second-best player in the NBA, some say he's the first, so for us to get to see him up close and personal again; it was special for me to get to play with him," said Will Conroy, a Seattle native who has bounced around in the D-League with a few NBA stints. "I overpassed it to him like 10 times, but I didn't care. It was special. Even me, I couldn't sleep last night. I was excited."

Durant was mostly matched up against Martell Webster of the Washington Wizards but he took on whoever stood in his way, including Shaqquan Aaron, a high school standout in Seattle. Aaron played pretty good defense on Durant, but the NBA star still got the foul call from the officials.

"He was trying to go at me his hardest," Aaron said. "If he was guarding me I would have went at him too."

Rivera blows 3rd save in row, Gardner saves Yanks

NEW YORK (AP)—After Mariano Rivera blew a third straight save for the first time in his famed career, Brett Gardner homered with two outs in the ninth inning to lift the New York Yankees over the Detroit Tigers 5-4 Sunday for their first series win in more than a month.

Rivera (3-2) gave up another homer to a limping Miguel Cabrera and a drive to Victor Martinez in the top of the ninth, tying it at 4 and turning Alex Rodriguez's first homer of the season into a footnote.

Gardner connected off Jose Veras (0-5).

Rivera has a record 643 saves, but had never failed three in a row in 1,087 relief appearances coming in.

AP

New York Yankees' Brett Gardner watches his ninth-inning solo home run off Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Jose Veras in a baseball game on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013, in New York.

Royals 4, Red Sox 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, James Shields earned his first home win in more than three months and Alex Gordon homered as the Royals beat the Red Sox.

The Royals improved to 18-5 since the All-Star break, winning seven consecutive series.

Shields (7-8) gave up three runs and seven hits over seven innings. Greg Holland got his 32nd save in 34 opportunities.

Gordon connected off John Lackey (7-10) for his third homer in five games. Lackey is 0-4 in his past five starts.

The contending Royals announced a trade after the game, getting veteran infielder Jamey Carroll from Minnesota for cash or a player to be named.

Rangers 6, Astros 1

In Houston, Martin Perez allowed four hits for his first career complete game, leading the Texas Rangers past Houston for their seventh straight victory.

Chris Carter ruined Perez's shutout bid with a home run with two outs in the ninth inning.

Alex Rios had two hits, drove in a run and scored twice in his second game with the Rangers, who have won 12 of their last 13 games. Adrian Beltre also had two hits.

Perez (5-3) struck out a career-high eight while walking two in earning his second straight win.

Dallas Keuchel (5-7) allowed six runs and eight hits with eight strikeouts in 8 2-3 innings.

Athletics 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Alberto Callaspo hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning and Brandon Moss had a two-run homer as the Oakland Athletics beat Toronto.

Oakland outfielder Josh Reddick, who homered five times in the first two games of the series, was moved up to fifth in the order but failed to connect again. He went 1 for 3 with two walks.

Callaspo's hit came against Darren Oliver (3-3).

Ryan Cook (4-2) pitched 1 1-3 innings for the win. Grant Balfour worked around Brett Lawrie's RBI double in the ninth for his 30th save in 31 chances. Balfour got Jose Reyes to ground out with the bases loaded to end it.

Indians 6, Angels 5

In Cleveland, Michael Bourn drove in the go-ahead run with a seventh-inning single as the Cleveland Indians rallied from a five-run deficit to break a six-game losing streak by the Los Angeles Angels.

The Indians, held to one hit through five innings, got back in the game in the sixth on two-run homers by Nick Swisher and Mike Aviles, who entered the game in the third after shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera was ejected.

Carlos Santana's leadoff homer in the seventh off J.C. Gutierrez (0-3) tied the game.

Matt Albers (3-1) pitched 1 2-3 innings and Chris Perez recorded his 18th save as the Indians' bullpen threw 4 2-3 scoreless innings.

Mariners 2, Brewers 0

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez blanked Milwaukee on four hits for eight innings as the Seattle Mariners topped the Brewers.

Hernandez (12-5) struck out nine and walked one in his first career appearance against the Brewers. The 2010 AL Cy Young winner leads the league with a 2.28 ERA and is second with 178 strikeouts.

Danny Farquhar worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Wily Peralta (8-12) pitched a complete game and allowed four hits. He walked none and struck out four.

Twins 5, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Kevin Correia pitched seven shutout innings, and Brian Dozier and Joe Mauer backed him with home runs as the Minnesota Twins beat the Chicago White Sox.

The Twins took three of four games in the series and have won nine of 12 against the White Sox this season.

Adam Dunn and Conor Gillaspie hit solo home runs off Casey Fien in the White Sox ninth.

Dozier's three-run homer off Jose Quintana (6-4) gave the Twins a 3-0 lead in the fifth. After Jamey Carroll singled, Mauer hit his ninth homer.

Correia (8-8) struck out seven, tying a season high. He allowed five hits and one walk.

Dodgers 8, Rays 2

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw allowed just three hits over eight innings and had a two-run single as the Los Angeles Dodgers increased their National League West lead to a season-best 7 1/2 games Sunday with an victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Mark Ellis had a homer and three RBIs to help Los Angeles improve to a major league-best 37-8 since June 22, a stretch that has dramatically turned around their season after they trailed the Arizona Diamondbacks by as many as 9 1/2 games. The Dodgers are a season-best 17 games over .500.

The Rays lost their season-worst fifth in a row, but remained three games behind AL East-leading Boston following the Red Sox's loss at Kansas City.

Kershaw (11-7) allowed two runs—one earned—and struck out eight to help the Dodgers complete their seventh series sweep of the season.

The Dodgers finished their interleague schedule 11-6, their first winning record against AL clubs since going 10-8 in 2004, and the Rays completed their interleague slate 12-8. Kershaw is 6-3 with a 2.67 ERA in 17 career interleague starts, striking out 116 batters in 111 1-3 innings.

Nationals 6, Phillies 0

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg pitched a four-hitter and struck out 10 batters in the first complete game of his career, and Jayson Werth had his second straight three-hit game as the Washington Nationals completed a three-game sweep of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Strasburg (6-9) dominated the reeling Phillies for his first win since July 7 against San Diego. The Nationals had lost five straight games started by the right-hander.

The Phillies never had a runner in scoring position during their 11th straight road loss. Philadelphia has lost nine of 11 overall.

Washington scored two runs in the fourth and three in the fifth against Kyle Kendrick (9-9), who surrendered 11 hits over 5 1-3 innings.

Braves 9, Marlins 4

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer as Atlanta beat Miami after having its 14-game winning streak snapped Saturday.

B.J. Upton drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly and Chris Johnson hit a two-run double in the four-run seventh inning that broke open a tie game. Jason Heyward had four hits, including a run-scoring single in the eighth.

Evan Gattis had three, including his run-scoring double in the seventh.

Mike Minor (12-5) gave up four runs on six hits and one walk in seven innings, ended a streak of six straight starts with no more than two earned runs allowed.

Dan Jennings (1-3) gave up two runs without recording an out in the Braves' four-run seventh.

Rockies 3, Pirates 2

In Denver, Nolan Arenado hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning as Colorado beat Pittsburgh for a three-game sweep of the NL Central leaders.

The Pirates came to Coors Field this weekend with a five-game winning streak. They hold a three-game edge over St. Louis, and visit the Cardinals for a three-game series starting Tuesday night.

Pedro Alvarez homered for the Pirates. Reliever Bryan Morris (5-5) took the loss.

The Rockies last swept a series April 16-18 against the Mets on their way to a 13-4 start. They have struggled the last two months to fall from the top of the NL West to out of the playoff race.

Manuel Corpas (2-2) pitched a clean seventh inning for the win.

Reds 3, Padres 2, 13 innings

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto delivered a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 13th inning as Cincinnati overcame two more errors for its fourth win in five games.

Jack Hannahan drew a one-out walk from Tim Stauffer (1-1) and Choo Shin-soo snapped a 0-for-16 slump with a one-out double to right field. Ryan Hanigan, pinch-hitting against a drawn-in, five-man infield and shallow two-man outfield, was hit by a pitch to load the bases.

The Padres went back to three outfielders with everybody drawn in, and Votto hit a fly to left field to drive in Hannahan from third base.

Xavier Paul tied the score with a two-run, pinch-hit home run off Ian Kennedy in the eighth. Sam LeCure (2-1), Cincinnati's seventh pitcher, pitched 1 1-3 innings for the win.

Cardinals 8, Cubs 4

In St. Louis, Pete Kozma singled home the tiebreaking run in the sixth inning as St. Louis ended a four-game losing streak, beating Chicago and avoiding a sweep.

Matt Carpenter and Allen Craig each had three hits and drove in a run. Jon Jay and David Freese both drove in two runs, though they only had one hit between them.

The Cardinals dropped five of six to begin a 10-game homestand.

Randy Choate (2-1) faced one batter, getting leadoff man David DeJesus to pop out with two men on to end the sixth. Edward Mujica worked the last two innings for his 31st save in 33 chances.

Tony Cruz doubled with two outs in the sixth off Blake Parker (1-2) and scored easily on Kozma's single. Parker was the winner Saturday with an inning of relief.

Orioles 10, Giants 2

In San Francisco, J.J. Hardy hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, and Adam Jones added a three-run shot in the ninth as Baltimore pounded San Francisco.

Hardy's 21st home run of the season gave the Orioles a 3-2 lead. Four players drove in a run in the eighth, Jones hit his 24th homer and every player in Baltimore's starting lineup finished with at least one hit.

Brandon Belt and Hunter Pence each hit RBI doubles off Bud Norris in the first for San Francisco's only runs.

Matt Cain (7-8) retired 15 of the first 16 batters he faced. He struck out five and walked one in seven innings, allowing only an RBI single by Nate McLouth in the sixth before Hardy's homer.

Troy Patton (2-0) tossed one scoreless inning of relief. Baltimore has won four of its past five games.

Mets 9, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Andrew Brown's three-run, pinch-hit home run broke open a close game as New York beat Arizona.

Jonathan Niese (4-6), in his first start since June 20, came off the disabled list to go six innings, giving up four runs and seven hits in his first win since May 16. The Mets took two of three from the Diamondbacks.

The Mets scored four unearned runs in the first, three on first baseman Paul Goldschmidt's fielding error with two outs and the bases loaded.

Arizona's Cody Ross was carted off the field in the first inning with a dislocated right hip in the second major league start for Zeke Spruill (0-2).

Kagman Cougars gain share of U19 lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kagman Cougars joined the S.J. Ol'Aces on top of the U19 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League, following a 57-43 win over the COPSSA Warriors last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Cougars took an early double-digit lead against the Warriors and held on in the last three quarters to improve to a 2-0 slate, the same mark the S.J. Ol'Aces own after beating the Sonics, 49-39, in the first game last Friday.

John Darag scored 8 of his 12 points in the opening quarter, lifting the Cougars to an 18-7 advantage. He went scoreless in the second canto and the Cougars' slowed down on offense, while the Warriors began to attack to trim the lead down to 4 at halftime, 22-26.

The match remained close in the third until the Cougars converted back-to-back triples in the closing minute of the quarter to widen the gap, 44-37. The Edwin Camacho-coached team picked up where it left off in the fourth, limiting the debuting Warriors to three field goals for the 14-point win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Kagman Cougars' Frank Mettao drives to the baseline against COPSSA Warriors' Tristan Montes during the first quarter of their U19 game in the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces 56, Rebelholics 35

In last Wednesday's game, the Ol'Aces won its first match in the U19 division after routing the Rebelholics.

The Ol'Aces also got off to a good start to gain control of the match en route to the 21-point victory. The Ol'Aces went up 12-2, thanks to Paul Kaipat's first three baskets in the game. Isaiah Retan made the lone basket for the struggling Rebelholics in the first period.

It was cruise control for the Ol'Aces from thereon, as the Rebelholics' could not get its offensive game going in the next two quarters. The Rebelholics scored no more than 8 points in each of the next two frames before notching 19 markers in the fourth quarter when the Ol'Aces had the game in the bag.

WEDNESDAY

Ol'Aces 56 – Kaipat 11, Darag 10, Olopai 8, Floresca 7, Laniyo 7, Faisao 4, Cruz 3, Magofna 2.

Rebelholics 35 – Rios 12, Francisco 9, Ellam 6, Retan 4, Sagun 2, Santos 1, Deocares 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-2, 21-10, 31-16, 56-35.

FRIDAY

Kagman Cougars 57 – Santos 13, Darag 12, Malwelbug 12, Je. Santos 8, Palacios 8, Elpidio 2, Metta 2.

COPSSA Warriors 43 – Yap 10, Cabaltica 9, Montes 7, Feria 6, Ogasawara 4, Gagaring 4, Omori 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-7, 26-22, 44-37, 57-43.

CNMI

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C, Moris Villanueva dropped his first two matches, losing to Kanoa's Kevin Maukoloa, 2-6, 5-7, and Tahiti's Manoa Desvignes, 4-6, 4-6.

In the U18 division, Thea Minor swept her opening day opponent in Pool A, topping Samoa's Loloma Ripley, 6-0, 6-1. In the boys division, Jake Lee went 1-1 after Day 1, while Amami Sakano and Tommy Choi were winless on opening day.

Lee prevailed in his first match in Pool B against the Cook Islands' Roland Neururer, 7-5, 6-1, but missed a perfect record after bowing to the latter's teammate Tamarua Payne, 3-6, 1-6. In Pool A, Sakano lost a three-set game against Kiribati's Tito Bira, 6-4, 4-6, 6-7 (9). Choi is also in Pool A and fell to Tahiti's Heve Kelley, 1-6, 1-6, and Bira, 4-6, 3-6.

PADRES

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Khobby Kaipat, and Patrick Tenorio on the mound to limit the Yankees to only three hits and strike out seven batters.

With the Yankees batters struggling against the Padres' pitchers and the rest of the latter's defense staying close to the action, the former got to scoring position only three times. The first one was at the top of the second inning when P.J. Sablan walked and made it all the way to the third off a Padres' error. However, Sablan was left stranded at third and Jeremy Atalig at second, as Secharmidal struck out Brandon Dela Cruz.

With the Yankees failing to make it home, the Padres preserved the 3-0 lead. Tenorio put the Padres in the board at the bottom of the first inning, as his triple brought Jared Sablan home. Tenorio later gave the Padres their second ran off a stolen dish, while their third run came in the second inning off a Yankees' miscues.

The Padres continued to silence the Yankees with Wanket replacing Secharmidal in the third inning and getting two strikeouts in his short stint on the mound. The Yankees got its second chance to score with Wanket pitching, as he walked Toke Tenorio and M.J. Sakisasat, who later moved to second and third, respectively, but were stuck there when Angel Palacios caught a grounder from Darion Jones for the third out.

The Yankees' third and last chance to break into the board came at the top of the sixth inning when Roke Tenorio advanced to first on a hit by pitch from Kaipat and stole second and made it to third off a wild pitch with only one out. However, Kaipat struck out the last two batters to foil Tenorio's bid to give the Yankees the elusive first run.

Patrick Tenorio then finished off the Yankees with his two strikeouts at the top of the seventh inning. He first brought down Jeremy Atalig, while Gino Dela Cruz surprised the Padres' defense with his base hit on the deep right field before he was beaten on his way to second base. Tenorio then caught third batter Mariano Camacho looking with his two throws and gave up two high pitches before firing the fifth one, which the latter failed to hit, ending the match in favor of the Padres.

BALLERSSS

From Page 28

matches will collide for the first finals berth tomorrow.

The Ballersss secured the No. 1 spot in the four-team field after dominating Hashtag right into the opening half of the penultimate match in the regular season. The Ballersss doubled up Hashtag in the first 20 minutes of play, 27-13, with Chevy Kate Alipio leading the former's offense with her 10 points. Four other Ballersss players added at least two baskets apiece to put the team on top.

Hashtag never recovered from thereon, as it had only Rachel Abrams and Vanessa Bartolo consistently making baskets in the second half, while the Ballersss had an even offense to take the 19-point win.

Alipio finished with 16 points, while Karlene Reyes and Jan Travilla had 12 and 10, respectively, the Ballersss, which drew 15 points from Ira Palero and Alyanna Garon.

In the second game, Bubblebxtt got double figures from three players to thwart Yoloswag Attack. Friendly Joy Pena notched 15 points, Madeleine Alegre added 12, and Mikki Kautz contributed 11.

Jaime Mendoza paced Yoloswag Attack with her 14 points.

First Game

Ballersss 57 – Alipio 16, Reyes 12, Travilla 10, Palero 8, Garon 7, Diaz 2, Alegre 2.

Hashtag 38 – Bartolo 13, Abrams 12, Lumabi 4, Ito 3.

Scoring by halves: 27-13, 57-38.

Second Game

Bubblebxtt 56 – Pena 15, Alegre 12, Kautz 11, Javier 6, Gatchalian 4, Castillo 3.

Yoloswag Attack 45 – Mendoza 14, Lebria 12, Williams 8, Kautz 7, Che 2, Abantao 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-23, 56-45.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	71	49	.592	_
Tampa Bay	66	50	.569	3
Baltimore	65	52	.556	4 1/2
New York	59	57	.509	10
Toronto	54	63	.462	15 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	69	47	.595	_
Cleveland	63	55	.534	7
Kansas City	61	54	.530	7 1/2
Minnesota	52	63	.452	16 1/2
Chicago	44	72	.379	25

West Division

Texas	68	50	.576	_
Oakland	66	50	.569	1
Seattle	54	63	.462	13 1/2
Los Angeles	53	63	.457	14
Houston	37	79	.319	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	72	46	.610	_
Washington	57	60	.487	14 1/2
New York	54	61	.470	16 1/2
Philadelphia	52	65	.444	19 1/2
Miami	44	72	.379	27

Central Division

Pittsburgh	70	47	.598	_
St. Louis	67	50	.573	3
Cincinnati	65	52	.556	5
Chicago	52	65	.444	18
Milwaukee	51	67	.432	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	67	50	.573	_
Arizona	59	57	.509	7 1/2
Colorado	55	64	.462	13
San Diego	53	64	.453	14
San Francisco	52	65	.444	15

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PITTSFORD, New York (AP) — Scores Sunday from the PGA Championship, an $8 million event at the par-70, 7,177-yard Oak Hill Country Club, East Course:

FINAL ROUND

Jason Dufner	68-63-71-68—270
Jim Furyk	65-68-68-71—272
Henrik Stenson	68-66-69-70—273
Jonas Blixt	68-70-66-70—274
Scott Piercy	67-71-72-65—275
Adam Scott	65-68-72-70—275
David Toms	71-69-69-67—276
Jason Day	67-71-72-67—277
Zach Johnson	69-70-70-68—277
Dustin Johnson	72-71-65-69—277
Rory McIlroy	69-71-67-70—277
Graeme McDowell	70-69-73-66—278
Boo Weekley	72-69-70-67—278
Marc Leishman	70-70-70-68—278
Marc Warren	74-67-68-69—278
Roberto Castro	68-69-71-70—278
Kevin Streelman	70-72-66-70—278
Steve Stricker	68-67-70-73—278
Keegan Bradley	69-72-72-66—279
Hideki Matsuyama	72-68-73-66—279
Rickie Fowler	70-68-72-69—279
Michael Thompson	72-67-72-69—280
Matt Kuchar	67-66-76-71—280
David Lynn	69-69-71-71—280
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	68-71-71-71—281
Robert Garrigus	67-68-74-72—281
Webb Simpson	72-64-73-72—281
Bill Haas	68-70-71-72—281
Miguel Angel Jimenez	68-72-75-67—282
Rafael Cabrera-Bello	68-75-69-70—282
Scott Jamieson	69-72-70-71—282
Ryo Ishikawa	69-71-70-72—282
Peter Hanson	72-69-74-68—283
Martin Kaymer	68-68-78-69—283
Paul Casey	67-72-74-70—283
Brendon de Jonge	71-71-71-70—283
Justin Rose	68-66-77-72—283
Francesco Molinari	72-68-70-73—283
Lee Westwood	66-73-68-76—283
Matt Jones	72-71-73-68—284
Thorbjorn Olesen	71-70-74-69—284
J.J. Henry	71-71-73-69—284
Danny Willett	73-70-72-69—284
D.A. Points	73-70-72-69—284
Tiger Woods	71-70-73-70—284
Charley Hoffman	69-67-73-75—284
Thongchai Jaidee	70-71-75-69—285
John Merrick	75-68-73-69—285
Ryan Palmer	73-70-71-71—285
Josh Teater	71-71-71-72—285
David Hearn	66-76-71-72—285
K.J. Choi	76-65-71-73—285
Marcus Fraser	67-69-75-74—285
Luke Guthrie	71-71-69-74—285
Scott Stallings	73-70-73-70—286
Ryan Moore	69-71-73-73—286
Hunter Mahan	70-68-78-71—287
Shane Lowry	71-70-75-71—287
Chris Kirk	71-69-73-74—287
Ken Duke	75-68-70-74—287
Stephen Gallacher	75-68-76-69—288
Ian Poulter	70-71-77-70—288
Tommy Gainey	69-74-73-72—288
Harris English	74-69-72-73—288
Sergio Garcia	69-68-75-76—288
Ben Curtis	73-70-74-72—289
Brandt Snedeker	70-73-70-76—289
Tim Clark	69-71-75-75—290
Vijay Singh	70-72-73-75—290
John Senden	72-70-73-76—291
Brooks Koepka	71-72-71-77—291
Phil Mickelson	71-71-78-72—292
Matteo Manassero	72-69-74-77—292
Gary Woodland	73-70-80-70—293
Darren Clarke	69-73-74-80—296

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI vs North Korea in EAFF Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI U18 Team's starting unit pose for a group photo before their game against North Korea during the opening of the 2013 EAFF U18 Youth Tournament at the Guam National Training Center in Dededo last week.

CNMI and North Korea players line up before entering the field.

Assistant coach Jershwin Angeles gives pointers to CNMI players, while head coach Johann Noetzel looks on.

The CNMI's Yoshi Mafnas goes for a kick.

John Taisacan, right, chases a Korean player down the sideline.

CNMI goalie Christopher Aninzo jumps into the action to catch the ball.

CNMI captain Bo Barry, in blue uniform, meets with the linesmen before the start of their game against North Korea.

The CNMI's Dakota Hall collides with a North Korean player, while Enrico del Rosario stays close to the action.

A CNMI player falls on the ground, but still battles for possession against a North Korean player.

The CNMI's Enrico del Rosario makes a throw-in

Dufner beats Furyk at PGA for 1st major title

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Sports

Rivera blows 3rd save in row, Gardner saves Yanks

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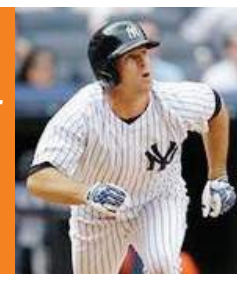

CNMI sweeps U12 opening games in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI earned a perfect record in the U12 singles matches in the opening of the 2013 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday in Fiji.

In the boys division, Michael Ren and Robbie Schorr had rousing debuts in the POJC, going 2-0 in Day 1 of the competition. Ren is in Pool A and swept Nicholas Yee Joy of Fiji in his first game, 6-4, 6-0. Ren also notched his second win after only two sets, as he made short work of the Federated States of Micronesia's Joab Williams, 6-1, 6-3.

In Pool B, Schorr was first paired against the Solomon Islands' Selwin Lam and cruised to a 6-1, 6-4 triumph before earning another easy win over the Cook Islands' John Jessie, 6-1, 6-1.

Completing the CNMI's strong start in the U12 age group were Tania Tan and Carol Lee. Tan showed no mercy to her opening day foes in Pool B, as she shot down FSM's Anne Skilling, 6-0, 6-0, and the Solomon Islands' Chrisma Au. Not to be outdone was Lee, who also gained similar 6-0, 6-0 wins versus FSM's Tilda Tollenoa and the Solomon Islands' Mariee Joan Finch in Pool A matches in Nadi.

Over in Lautoka, Tammy Ackerman also got a 2-0 slate in the girls U15. She defeated fellow CNMI player Negahr Rastguiy, 6-3, 7-5. Rastguiy earlier won her first match in Day 1 against New Caledonia's Lea Bolo, 7-6 (7), 6-4, while Ackerman made it two in a row after downing Fiji's Ruby Coffin, 6-3, 6-5.

In the boys U15, last year's finalists Chris Cajigan split his first two opening matches. He first fell to American Samoa's Larry Magalasin, 0-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4), before bouncing back against Papua New Guinea's Matthew Stubbings, 1-6, 6-1, 6-2, in Pool D. In Pool

See CNMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Michael Ren, seen here returning a shot to his foe during the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championships on Saipan, went 2-0 in Day 1 of the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji yesterday.

Ballersss finishes on top of Kanoa caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ballersss and Bubblebxtt closed out the regular season of the 2013 Kanoa Resort Women's Basketball Summer League with separate wins last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ballersss downed Hashtag, 58-48, to finish the two-round robin competition with a 5-1 record, the same mark Bubblebxtt earned, following a 56-45 triumph over Yoloswag Attack. However, the Ballersss won the tiebreak and was seeded first in the double-elimination playoffs, as it defeated Bubblebxtt in the second round by 9 points, 74-64. Bubblebxtt prevailed over the Ballersss in the first round, 63-58.

There was also a tie between Yoloswag Attack and Hashtag with their similar 1-5 slates, but the former took the No. 3 spot with its higher winning margin against the latter. Yoloswag Attack beat Hashtag in the first round, 63-49, before the latter bounced back with a 61-51 win in the second round.

The double-elimination playoff round started yesterday with the Ballersss scheduled to face Hashtag and Bubblebxtt slated to duel Yoloswag Attack. Winners of the two

See BALLERSSS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ballersss' Dion Diaz pulls up for a shot against a phalanx of Hashtag defenders during their first round meeting in the Kanoa caging early this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Padres runner sprints to first base, as Yankees' Darion Jones struggles to pick up a bunt during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Padres shut out Yankees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Padres completed the list of opening day winners after blanking the Yankees, 3-0, in the final game in the kick-off of the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Padres held strong on defense and drew good games from their four pitchers to join the Giants and Braves on the winners circle. Lancaster Secharmidal was the starting pitcher for the Padres, who also used Kainoa Wanket,

See PADRESS on Page 26